

From: [Singer, Joshua](#)
To: [Ramanauskas, Peter](#); [Dodds, Jennifer](#)
Cc: [Gonzalez, Rafael](#)
Subject: Eastern Sandusky Assessment
Date: Thursday, November 21, 2013 3:45:09 PM
Attachments: [Clyde Clips from 2010 - November 9, 2013.docx](#)

Peter, Jennifer and Rafael:

I just wanted to make sure we are on the same page regarding communications for the Eastern Sandusky Assessment now that LCD is in the lead.

I've talked to you both individually and it sounds like there is no "news" at this time. Let's please talk again once there are any updates we want to communicate. I will also let you know if I get any inquiries from reporters about the issue.

If you want to get the people who have worked on this issue together for a meeting, here's a list of some of the folks who have been involved (I know you've probably talked to some of them already): Martwick, Cathleen (ORC); Mcseveney, Megan (SFD CIC/Coordinator); Narsete, Virginia (SFD CIC); Wolfe, Stephen (OSC); Durno, Mark (Chief, emergency response section 1); Suero, Maryann (LCD, Children's Health); Rowan, Anne (public affairs section chief).

Also, attached is a collection of clips about the Clyde Cancer Cluster.

And here is the link to the web page about the Eastern Sandusky Assessment:

<http://www.epa.gov/region05/cleanup/easternsandusky/index.html>

Thanks.

Josh Singer

U.S. EPA, Region 5

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Eastern Sandusky Assessment Clips (2010 to November 9, 2013)

Listed from newest to oldest

Nov. 9, 2013

<http://www.sanduskyregister.com/article/toxic-park/4882421>

One lawsuit against Whirlpool dropped

One of the two lawsuits filed against Whirlpool in connection with the Clyde-area cancer cluster has been dropped.

Tom Jackson

Clyde

Nov 9, 2013



The plaintiffs who filed the LaGrou vs. Whirlpool lawsuit on behalf of families who live near the former Whirlpool Park in Green Springs have dropped the lawsuit without prejudice, meaning that they could choose to file it at a later time.

The lawsuit was originally filed in Fremont in state court, but was moved to federal court in Toledo. The court action says if the lawsuit were refiled, it would be refiled in federal court.

The LaGrou lawsuit blamed alleged dumping at Whirlpool Park by Whirlpool for causing a number of cancer cases. The lawsuit is named for Tim LaGrou, one of the plaintiffs. He was the husband of Christina LaGrou, 23, who died of cancer in 2006.

The demise of the LaGrou lawsuit leaves another federal suit filed against Whirlpool by Warren and Wendy Brown and other families affected by the cancer cluster. Whirlpool has filed a motion to dismiss that lawsuit, too, but there's been no ruling yet from U.S. District Judge James Carr, the federal judge presiding over the case in Toledo.

Joe Albrechta, one of the attorneys who filed the LaGrou lawsuit, could not be reached for comment Friday after calls were placed to his law office and his cell phone.

James Murray, one of the attorneys from the Murray and Murray law firm in Sandusky who had joined in the LaGrou lawsuit, said Friday he cannot comment on the decision to dismiss the lawsuit.

Tom Bowlus, a Fremont attorney, represents Jonathan Abdoo, who bought the former Whirlpool Park property from Whirlpool. Abdoo had planned to build a house on the property but halted work after EPA tests showed the land was contaminated.

The LaGrou lawsuit had named Abdoo as a defendant. Bowlus had denounced that, saying his client was told the property was clean when he bought it.

"By doing the voluntary dismissal, they dodged a potential bullet," Bowlus said Friday.

He noted Whirlpool had made a motion to dismiss the lawsuit. If Carr had agreed, the judge's ruling would have ended the lawsuit, meaning it could not be refiled. Voluntary dismissal at least keeps the possibility of a lawsuit alive if more favorable evidence emerges, Bowlus noted.

Whirlpool recently released testing data that showed PCBs at Whirlpool Park, but it showed no evidence that it or other harmful chemicals had gotten into groundwater.

"Now that the data's out, it arguably supports the notion Whirlpool Park was not the cause of the cancer cluster," Bowlus said.

While there's no question Whirlpool polluted, a key question is whether the pollution has been migrating from the site, Murray said.

Bowlus said the dismissal was an appropriate outcome and a relief for his client.

"It was an extremely stressful situation for Jonathan and his dad," Bowlus said. "Even though they felt and were reassured there was no valid claim against them ... it was still extremely distressful for them."

Whirlpool did not offer any official comment. In a newsletter distributed to Whirlpool employees in Clyde, the company stated: "We remain committed to defending ourselves against unfounded allegations made by plaintiff attorneys, and will keep you informed of further developments in these cases."

<http://www.thenews-messenger.com/article/20131108/NEWS01/311080010/Lawsuit-against-Whirlpool-regarding-cancer-cluster-dismissed>

Lawsuit against Whirlpool regarding cancer cluster dismissed

Nov. 9, 2013 |

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Comments

Written by

Kristina Smith

Watchdog/enterprise reporter

TOLEDO — Attorneys have agreed to dismiss a \$750 million class-action lawsuit against Whirlpool Corp. that alleged the company's Clyde division was responsible for the local childhood cancer cluster.

The decision to dismiss was not related to a report Whirlpool Corp. released Oct. 31 that the company said shows the closed Whirlpool Park did not cause the Eastern Sandusky County Cancer Cluster, said attorney John Murray of Sandusky, who represents some of the people suing Whirlpool.

Whirlpool Park, which Whirlpool operated until 2006 and then sold it, is contaminated with cancer-causing toxins called PCBs. The report on testing done there, however, indicates those toxins are not leaving the property, said attorney Tom Bowlus of Fremont, who represents the current property owners.

The attorneys had been working on the paperwork to dismiss the lawsuit two or three weeks before the report was released, Murray said. He declined to discuss why his clients chose to withdraw the case.

“That’s confidential,” he said. “I don’t have the clients’ permission to discuss that.”

The case is dismissed without prejudice, meaning it can be filed again. If the case is filed again, it must be filed in federal court, according to court records.

The lawsuit included an estimated 22 people who sued Whirlpool in March in Sandusky County Common Pleas Court. The case was moved to federal court on Oct. 31, court records show.

The current owners of Whirlpool Park, Grist Mill Creek LLC, a company owned by Jonathan and Robert Abdoo, also had been named as defendants in the lawsuit.

The Eastern Sandusky County Cancer Cluster affected at least 35 children in parts of Clyde, Green Creek Township and Fremont areas, according to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. OEPA has worked with other agencies to test drinking water, air and soil, and no cause has been found.

Whirlpool Corp. — whose Clyde plant makes washing machines and is Sandusky County's largest employer — operated the park from 1953 to 2006 and sold it to the Abdoos in 2008.

In a company newsletter dated Friday, Whirlpool notified its employees the lawsuit was voluntarily dismissed.

“We remain committed to defending ourselves against unfounded allegations made by plaintiff attorneys and will keep you informed of further developments in these cases,” according to the newsletter, which a Whirlpool spokeswoman provided to The News-Messenger.

In 2012, U.S. EPA found sludge containing PCBs buried on the property. The report on testing Whirlpool conducted at the site confirmed those PCBs are there, and Whirlpool believes they may have been part of fill material placed on the site in the 1950s and '60s, company spokesman Jeff Noel said Oct. 31.

The results of the testing, which include soil and water samples, showed no contamination in the groundwater or Flag Run, a creek on the property.

Whirlpool plans to work with the Abdoos to clean up the land, Noel said.

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Nov. 1, 2013

News Headline: Whirlpool announces park's been cleared in Clyde cancer cluster |  

Outlet Full Name: Toledo Blade - Online

News Text: AECOM workers prepare to take another soil samples are at the former Whirlpool Park as part of an examination of the property for contamination at the park in Green Springs, Ohio in May.

CLYDE, Ohio -- Extensive soil tests of the 27-acre site formerly known as Whirlpool Park show no evidence of illegal dumping or widespread contamination, Whirlpool Corp. announced today.

That, according to D. Jeffrey Noel, Whirlpool's corporate vice president for communications and public affairs, should give area residents and company employees peace of mind that the facility they might have frequented in the past does not appear to have any connection to eastern Sandusky County's cancer cluster.

Contaminated soil near basketball courts appears to be from fill used to develop and improve the site. Whirlpool will be talking to the present site owner about a plan to remove it.

The encouraging news, Mr. Noel said, is that 328 groundwater, surface water, soil, sediment, and pool filter samples tested for 232 chemical compounds did not yield any unexpected surprises. Nearly all were within acceptable levels for human exposure, he said, including sampling done in and around the pool - where the greatest number of people would have come in contact with the facility.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency stated in an Oct. 30 letter to Whirlpool that the company method of testing and splitting samples with the federal agency was done in accordance with regulations. It said it had no comments on a report submitted by the company's contractor and "acknowledges that the site assessment activities were conducted in accordance" with the agreed-upon plan.

"The site assessment conducted at the Whirlpool Park properly met EPA's requirements. Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) were the only contaminants of concern found to be above regulatory standards," a letter from the agency's on-scene coordinator, Stephen Wolfe, said. Mr. Wolfe was not available for comment.

PCBs, which are industrial lubricants, can cause cancer, but a lot depends on the pathway and concentration. They are often found in old fill. The letter did not elaborate on where they were found.

Whirlpool said in its statement none of the PCBs were found in groundwater. It said the PCB spikes were limited to the basketball court and former grist mill areas.

"The low levels of PCBs and metals found at this site were at concentrations that pose no health risk and are not unexpected for fill dirt used in the 1950s and 1960s, when major improvements were made in the park," the company said.

http://www.thenews-messenger.com/article/20131021/NEWS01/310210029/Noted-filmmaker-feature-cancer-cluster-families-documentary?nclick_check=1

October 22, 2013

Noted filmmaker to feature cancer cluster families in documentary

Oct. 22, 2013 /

[0 Comments](#)



Written by

[Chike Erokwu](#)

Staff writer

CLYDE — Filmmakers recently began interviewing area residents and officials for a documentary detailing the past, present and future of cancer.

Documentary filmmaker Ken Burns and his production team from Ark Media began preliminary interviews for "Cancer: The Emperor of All Maladies." The six-hour PBS documentary is based on the 2010 Pulitzer Prize winning book of the same name.

Producers will attempt to capture the essence of the book while “...reshaping the way the public sees cancer and stripping away some of the fear and misunderstanding that has long surrounded it,” according to the website.

Warren and Wendy Brown’s daughter, Alexa, died of cancer in 2009. The two were interviewed for the documentary and asked questions about how childhood cancer affects families with young people. They also were asked about the alleged causes of the Eastern Sandusky Cancer Cluster.

Warren said his wife, Wendy, started reading “The Emperor of All Maladies” about a month before they knew filmmakers were coming to Clyde to interview them for the documentary.

“I think it’s a great thing,” said Warren of the documentary. “We’re encouraged that they’re doing it. The more emphasis we can bring to help those in power fund cancer research, the better off we’ll be.”

Documentary co-producer Jamila Ephron reached out to Sandusky County Health Commissioner David Pollick for a preliminary interview in September. Pollick agreed, citing the need for a public official directly involved in the investigation to give a firsthand perspective of how events unfolded.

“A lot of effort went into trying to establish the cause of the cluster,” Pollick said. “Somebody needs to do the chronology for them so they know what was done in regard to the cancer cluster.

“It’s also the right thing to do,” he added. “A day doesn’t go by when I don’t think about this.”

The documentary is broken down into three two-hour segments. The first part tells the story of the doctors, researchers and patients that pushed the boundaries of cancer knowledge in the past. The second profiles cancer patients, their relationships with others and the strength they find to live with the disease. The final portion looks at the future of cancer research and the future of scientific research in the field.

Dr. Siddhartha Mukherjee wrote “The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer” and will work with Burns and Director Barak Goodman on the project.

The documentary is scheduled for release in spring 2015. For information, visit www.emperorofallmaladies.org.

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September 14, 2013

Cancer cluster families try again

Families ask new EPA secretary to fulfill predecessor's promise.

Tom Jackson

Clyde

Sep 14, 2013

Families affected by the Clyde cancer cluster have invited the new EPA administrator, Gina McCarthy, to come to Clyde and meet with them.

The previous EPA administrator, Lisa Jackson, promised to come to Clyde but never showed up before stepping down earlier this year. President Barack Obama nominated McCarthy to replace Jackson. The Senate confirmed McCarthy on July 18.

After giving McCarthy a few weeks to settle in, Alan Mortensen, a Utah attorney who represents many of the families affected by the Clyde cancer cluster, sent McCarthy a letter and asked her to come to Clyde.

Mortensen reminded McCarthy of Jackson's promise and listed 15 young people who died of cancer or who have been afflicted by it.

"On behalf of the families involved in this horrible childhood cancer cluster, we invite you to travel to Clyde and meet with the victims' families and also to meet with the citizens of Sandusky County, and assure them that their town is safe, or will be made safe, from any cancer-causing pollutants," Mortensen wrote.

McCarthy's spokesman, Alisha Johnson, said Wednesday that McCarthy and EPA officials will review the Sept. 3 letter.

Although Jackson never came to Clyde, many families affected by the cancer cluster acknowledge that the investigation into the cancer cluster has moved forward after the U.S. EPA entered the investigation.

The EPA carried out tests at 14 former dump sites and set up a hotline for suggestions on other areas to test. The hotline resulted in tests of three additional locations, including the former Whirlpool Park, which was found to be contaminated by chemicals and PCBs. Additional testing has been carried out at the park this summer.

September 4, 2013

News Headline: U.S. **EPA** chief is asked to visit Clyde |  

Outlet Full Name: Toledo Blade - Online

News Text: CLYDE, Ohio — Relatives of eastern Sandusky County childhood cancer victims are asking newly confirmed U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy to visit them in person.

Alan Mortensen, a Utah attorney representing several of them in a class-action lawsuit, said in a Sept. 3 letter to Ms. McCarthy it “is our hope that you will keep the **EPA** pushing for answers, and that you will come to Clyde to see for yourself the dump sites and more importantly, the victims.”

He noted in his letter that Lisa Jackson, who was Ms. McCarthy’s predecessor as U.S. **EPA** administrator, had committed in writing to visit families but never did.

The U.S. **EPA** began trying to identify the source of cancer and the exposure pathway after Ohio environmental and health agencies said they had reached an impasse. Acting on new tips, investigators found high levels of contamination in a portion of Whirlpool Park south of Clyde, where contaminants were buried in the past.

Ms. McCarthy was confirmed by the U.S. Senate as **EPA** administrator July 18.

Mr. Mortensen’s invitation was referred to Alisha Johnson, Ms. McCarthy’s spokesman, the agency said.

Whirlpool hits back at critics

In court filings hitting back at critics, Whirlpool Corp. has asked a federal judge to dismiss a lawsuit filed by families of children in the Clyde cancer cluster.

Tom Jackson

Clyde

Aug 30, 2013

The company’s court brief contends the class-action lawsuit ignores the fact reputable federal scientists have failed to identify the cause of the cancer cluster.

Whirlpool is asking U.S. Northern District Court Judge James Carr to toss out the lawsuit, which was filed in May by relatives of children who died of cancer in the eastern Sandusky County area. The plaintiffs, including Warren Brown — father of cancer victim Alexa Brown, 11 — and other relatives

of children who died of cancer allege a variety of illnesses resulted from dumping at the former Whirlpool Park site, as well as from pollution at the plant.

The Whirlpool brief says the lawsuit amounts to “a request to launch an enormous fishing expedition.”

The company’s brief says the lawsuit ignores “multiple federal, state, and local environmental and health agency reports and studies that have found there is no known environmental cause — much less a common source of exposure to any carcinogen — of the reported childhood cancer incidents in Sandusky County.” The brief also says the plaintiffs allege illnesses — such as low sperm count, learning disabilities, diverticulitis and all types of cancer — “bear almost no relation to ... (the) allegations that there is a cancer cluster in the area.”

The company’s brief states: “Plaintiffs’ lawyers have turned a blind-eye to the agencies’ findings and have embarked on an unjustified campaign to blame the area’s largest employer and manufacturer, Whirlpool, for every childhood cancer or other health issue experienced by 58 different Plaintiffs, including many adult Plaintiffs who indisputably are not part of any alleged childhood cancer cluster.”

Carr could agree to toss out the entire lawsuit, or he could keep all of it intact. He could also strike out portions, while allowing other portions to proceed in court. With Whirlpool filing its answer to the lawsuit, the plaintiffs’ attorneys have 30 days to file an answer. Whirlpool then has seven days to answer that reply, which means October would be the earliest anyone would see a decision on the company’s motion to dismiss.

Carr could choose to listen to attorneys argue the motion, or he could base his decision on the written legal briefs. Ultimately, it’s up him to decide when to rule on the motion, and it’s impossible to know when that will happen. Carr has a reputation for diligence, so it’s reasonable to expect a ruling by year’s end, a Whirlpool official said.

Whirlpool is also fighting a separate lawsuit, Lagrou vs. Whirlpool, filed in March in Sandusky County Common Pleas court. The lawsuit says alleged dumping at the former Whirlpool Park is to blame for illnesses in people who live near the park.

Whirlpool succeeded in getting the lawsuit moved to federal court after Carr ruled that this was the appropriate place to handle the case. Whirlpool has also filed a motion to dismiss the Lagrou lawsuit. It appears likely Carr will combine the two cases.

<http://www.sanduskyregister.com/article/golden-children/4292896>

Chiropractor backs new theory in Clyde cancer cluster

Castalia resident says lack of magnesium to blame.

Tom Jackson

Castalia

Jul 16, 2013

A Castalia chiropractor is offering a new theory on the root cause of the Clyde cancer cluster: A lack of magnesium in the local water supply.

Dr. Dan White says he can produce a stack of scientific studies suggesting his theory deserves a look, but says he can't get the health department or anyone else to examine his ideas. "If they want to shoot holes in it, fine," he said. "I want somebody to look at it."

White's theory takes its place alongside other theories on the cause of the cancer cluster, which is blamed for killing at least four people and sickening about 40. Other theories and updates:

- A federal lawsuit filed by many of the cancer cluster families against Whirlpool blames the company for burning waste materials and putting a chemical called benzaldehyde into the air. The lawsuit, filed in Toledo, also blames chemical dumping in the former Whirlpool Park.
- Another lawsuit, filed in state court by a Fremont law firm, focuses blame on alleged dumping at Whirlpool Park.
- A Bellevue businessman, Steve Burroughs, argues that lead arsenate pesticides applied to fruit orchards decades ago poisoned the soil and led to the cancers. Burroughs has called for government agencies to carry out tests to prove or disprove the theory.
- Officials may not be able to find a cause. That's what Robert Indian, head of the state health department's cancer control program, told the Toledo Blade in 2011. "I think we've done everything we can do," Indian said. Indian is not currently giving interviews, a health department spokesman said.
- The cancer outbreak may be a statistical anomaly. Daniel Kahneman's bestselling book, "Thinking: Fast and Slow," includes a chapter, "The Law of Small Numbers," which says small samples tend to produce misleading results. The chapter notes that rural, relatively sparsely populated counties have both the highest rates and the lowest rates of kidney cancer in the country, because they have small populations and are affected by a small number of cases. Kahneman writes that "extreme outcomes (very high and/or very low cancer rates) are most likely to be found in sparsely populated counties. That is all there is to the story."

White, discussing his theory, cites an Ohio EPA report, "Drinking Water Quality Sampling to Support the Ohio Department of Health Childhood Cancer Investigation, City of Clyde and Surrounding Townships." The report includes a table that shows magnesium of four to five parts per million in three samples of Clyde's water supply, with calcium ranging from 32 to 38 parts per million. Studies show a rate of 1:1 is ideal, and ought to be at least be 1:2, White said.

Studies such as "Does a higher ratio of serum calcium to magnesium increase the risk for postmenopausal breast cancer?" — available on the Internet by searching for the title — illustrate the results of a lack of magnesium, White said.

A search for "Mg deficiency" and "cancer" at Pubmed.gov, which compiles medical studies, produces a number of links. White said he wants officials who are responsible for finding a cause for the childhood cancer cluster to look at the scientific studies and tell him if he is right or wrong. He's nettled about what he says is the cold shoulder he's received from the Sandusky County Health Department. He's particularly unhappy about his perception that the Sandusky County Health Department has helped Burroughs pursue the lead arsenate theory, but has not listened to his magnesium theory. White said he met with two officials at the health department and left literature, but there was no follow-up. "I tried to contact them afterwards and was never able to get a return phone call," he said.

Sandusky County's health commissioner, David Pollick, said he is not familiar with White's theory and cannot evaluate it. Pollick said if White calls him, he will talk to him. "He's never called me," Pollick said. "I return my calls."

http://www.thenews-messenger.com/article/20130621/NEWS01/306210022/Federal-agency-says-attic-dust-can-t-used-make-connection-cancer?gcheck=1&nclick_check=1

Federal agency says attic dust can't be used to make connection with cancer

Data cannot determine human exposure, risks

Jun. 22, 2013 |

Kristina Smith

Watchdog/enterprise reporter

CLYDE — Test results from dust found in attics of homes where children sickened in the local cancer cluster lived cannot be used to determine whether there is a connection between the dust and cancer, a federal agency said.

Attorneys for some families affected by the eastern Sandusky County cancer cluster — which sickened more than 30 children in the Clyde area — believe the chemical benzaldehyde, found in the attic dust, caused the cluster.

Some families have sued Whirlpool Corp., which operates a washing-machine plant in Clyde, in federal court and alleged the company released benzaldehyde and is responsible for the cancer cluster.

Benzaldehyde is a liquid that evaporates when exposed to air and is used as a food flavoring, in cosmetics and as a solvent.

Attorney Alan Mortensen, of Salt Lake City, Utah, who represents the families, has said benzaldehyde can cause genetic mutations and is a potential carcinogen. The families are not alleging the attics are causing cancer, Mortensen said earlier this month.

“They are only showing the proof of what has been in the ambient air that Clyde’s children have been playing in,” he said. “It is consistent with the smells people would smell in the night.”

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, which is part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, responded this week to the report on testing of attic dust completed by a firm the families hired — Vanilla Environmental Partners of Pleasant Grove, Utah — at five Clyde homes in March. Children sickened in the cluster lived in four of the homes.

“We cannot comment on the validity of the sampling approach and results in this report,” wrote Richard Gillig, chief of ATSDR’s central branch division of community health and investigation. “ATSDR does not evaluate attic dust for cumulative airborne or incidental ingestion exposures, since this is not an area where occupants spend significant time unless it is used as a living space.

“The data cannot be used to establish a completed human exposure pathway or to determine health risk, and cannot help to evaluate cancer risk in the household or community.”

There also is some dispute over whether the levels of benzaldehyde found in the attics were elevated.

Mortensen has said the levels found were higher than the U.S. EPA’s standard for an investigation and possible remediation. He was not available Friday for further comment.

ATSDR, however, said the levels of benzaldehyde found were below the preliminary remediation goals, meaning an investigation and cleanup would not be warranted.

The agency's opinion is consistent with the findings of Bob Midden, Bowling Green State University associate professor of chemistry, who reviewed the report at The News-Messenger's request.

Joel Hebdon, a consultant for Mortensen's law firm, said the amount of benzaldehyde found exceeds U.S. EPA's level of concern for some areas of the United States.

There is no air standard for benzaldehyde, Hebdon said. The standards on record are for benzaldehyde in soil, so it's difficult to make a comparison, he said.

"I haven't drawn any conclusions," said Hebdon, who would like to see an air study that includes monitoring for benzaldehyde done in the Clyde area.

In addition to the benzaldehyde allegations, sludge containing cancer-causing toxins called PCBs was found buried at the closed Whirlpool Park near Green Springs. The families' lawsuit — and another lawsuit filed locally by a different group of families — against Whirlpool also allege the toxins at the park contributed to the cancer cluster.

The U.S. EPA found the sludge last year after receiving tips that Whirlpool buried the substance there. Whirlpool spokesman Jeff Noel has said the company has no records of burying anything on the property.

U.S. EPA spokesman Francisco Arcaute declined to comment.

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<http://fox8.com/2013/05/27/residents-briefed-on-clyde-cancer-cluster-case/>

Residents Briefed on 'Clyde Cancer Cluster' Case

Posted on: 9:30 pm, May 27, 2013, by [Emily Valdez](#), *updated on: 12:28am, May 28, 2013*

CLYDE, Ohio — Dozens of people turned out at Fremont High School Monday night for a town hall meeting on the alleged Clyde cancer cluster.

“The last seven years has been hell. It’s been horrible,” said Clyde resident Dave Hisey.

Hisey said two of his children had cancer. He is a plaintiff in one of two class action lawsuits filed against Whirlpool Corporation over the alleged cancer cluster in eastern Sandusky County.

The suit alleges Whirlpool intentionally dumped toxic, cancer-causing materials at the former Whirlpool Park in Sandusky County.

According to the Ohio Department of Health, 35 children in eastern Sandusky County have been diagnosed with various types of cancer since 1996.

Four kids have died.

“It’s very frustrating; it’s very sad. You just get tired, worn down,” Hisey said.

Many people who turned out Monday have loved ones who lived in the area, died from cancer or have children suffering from cancer or other diseases.

“Our first granddaughter has been diagnosed with Crohn’s Disease. She’s 10, and the four-year-old, her little sister, has been diagnosed with immune deficiencies,” attendee Penny Foos said.

Attorney Alan Mortensen filed the second lawsuit. He claims the cancer-causing substance is benzaldehyde.

“It’s a known hazardous substance by the EPA,” Mortensen said.

We called Whirlpool for their response, but their office was closed for the holiday.

In a previous statement they said:

“We are currently reviewing the lawsuit filed today. As a member of the community for over 60 years, with more than 3,000 employees in the area, we are also very interested in figuring out the facts behind this ongoing issue. We are working closely with the current property owner, the U.S. EPA and the Ohio EPA to address the issues at the former Whirlpool Park through the Ohio EPA Voluntary Action Program. We have submitted a Phase I Property Assessment Report and Phase II Work Plans for comment and approval by both agencies.”

The suit asks for a jury trial. The plaintiffs are seeking \$750 million in damages.

It asks that a medical monitoring fund and a clean-up fund are created, as well.

For extended coverage on this story, [click here](#).

<http://www.thenews-messenger.com/article/20130527/NEWS01/305270021/Cancer-cluster-families-speak-out>

Cancer cluster families speak out

Eastern Sandusky County Cancer Cluster meeting gives affected a chance to talk

May 28, 2013 |

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Comments



Purchase Image

Dave Hisey talks about his frustrations with the release toxins Monday as his daughter, Sierra, stands next to him. / Daniel Carson/ News-Messenger.



Written by

[Daniel Carson](#)

Staff writer



Purchase Image [ZOOM](#)

Attorney Alan Mortensen speaks to families and area residents impacted by the Eastern Sandusky County cancer cluster Monday at Fremont Ross High School. / Daniel Carson/News-Messenger

FREMONT — Whether they lost a son, daughter, grandson or loved one to cancer, the Sandusky County families that packed into Fremont Ross High School's gym Monday night say they just want answers to what caused the release of toxins into their soil, drinking water and living spaces.

The majority of residents who showed up for the Eastern Sandusky County Cancer Cluster meeting were from Clyde, but Steve Keller and his wife, Nancy, said they live in Oak Harbor and were there on behalf of their late grandson.

The Kellers' grandson, Kole, died from cancer at the age of 6. Like the other families at Monday's meeting, the Kellers said they're still looking for answers.

"We don't want any of you to go through what we went through with our grandson," Nancy Keller said.

Attorney Alan Mortensen is representing the families that appeared at Monday's cancer cluster meeting in a class action lawsuit against Whirlpool Corp. Mortensen asked the audience if there were any official representatives from the company, which employs at least 3,000 people at its Clyde plant, but no one responded.

Mortensen reviewed the extended struggle the families had gone through in trying to get answers from government agencies as to why their children were developing cancer and other illnesses related to what they believe were chemicals dumped at Whirlpool Park and 13 other dump sites in Clyde and surrounding areas.

He noted that in 2009, parents were told by Ohio State University researchers there was a 95 percent possibility that the cancer cluster was caused by external forces.

"Having this many children with cancer in a small town like Clyde, this just doesn't happen," Mortensen said.

Mortensen and other speakers at Monday's meeting went to great lengths to point out that they attempted to seek answers through state and federal agencies before resorting to legal action.

He said he felt that government agencies, particularly the state's health department, had let residents down with their inaction in investigating the causes of the cancer cluster.

The attorney said it wasn't his intention or the families' to make Clyde a ghost town or put the Whirlpool plant out of business.

Clyde resident Dave Hisey stood with his daughter, Sierra, and asked the audience to visualize 40 beds with sick children behind him on the gymnasium floor. Hisey said some of the beds would be empty now, with some of the children succumbing to cancer.

He said he and other parents who joined the class action lawsuit weren't money grubbers.

"We work hard. We give back. We're just looking for answers," Hisey said.

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<http://www.sanduskyregister.com/article/golden-children/3794051>

Residents urged to action

Cancer cluster families are "the faces of what's happening in your community," attorney Charles Boyk tells forum audience.

Alissa Widman

Fremont

May 28, 2013



A "stained glass window effect" obstructs justice for five Clyde families who lost children to cancer, according to attorney Alan Mortensen.

When viewed separately, about 40 sick children, more than a dozen toxic dump sites and a large manufacturing plant may not seem conclusive of foul play.

But when banded together with support of recent investigations, it's difficult to claim the cases are merely coincidence, Mortensen said.

"People are trying to segment this into little pieces, claiming it doesn't make sense," he said. "When you put the pieces together and shine some light on it, it's a complete picture. It does make sense."

About a dozen individuals impacted in a series of cases known as the "Clyde Cancer Cluster" stood before about 200 people Monday night, eager to shed some light on the situation. The group and their attorneys hosted a well-attended meeting in Fremont Ross High School's gymnasium to offer information about the ongoing investigation.

Mortensen, a Utah attorney representing many families as they seek a class-action lawsuit against Whirlpool, the alleged source of the cluster, spoke for nearly a half hour. He then opened the floor for about an hour of questions and comments.

Click [here](#) for related articles, video and photos.

About a dozen people spoke, many voicing frustrations about a lack of urgency, accountability and answers as children continue to suffer and die from the disease. They also questioned the safety of Clyde-Green Springs Schools, which has not been tested during investigations related to lawsuits.

"Someone has to have the guts to be accountable," said Clyde resident Linda Linder, a vocal audience member Monday night. "It hurts me so bad that people don't care about these children. This is unacceptable."

The most recent lawsuit, which the families filed in federal court in Toledo earlier this month, alleges benzaldehyde and possibly other toxins released or dumped by Whirlpool caused the death of five young people and sickened about two dozen others in the Clyde area. The allegations rely, in part, on the discovery of benzaldehyde in the attics of several homes where the affected children lived. An earlier lawsuit was filed in March in Sandusky County Common Pleas Court in Fremont.

Several individuals involved in the lawsuits debunked the notion they are simply trying to obtain money or put Whirlpool out of business at Monday's meeting.

"We're here to make the area safer, to prevent this from happening to someone else," said Clyde resident Dave Hisey, who has watched two of his three young children battle leukemia. "We have to get answers, and if a lawsuit is the only way to find on what's going on in this community, we have to do it."

Attorney Charles Boyk, who is also involved in the lawsuits, urged attendees to contact elected officials and seek action related to the cancer cluster. Boyk and Mortensen also collected information Monday from audience members wishing to test their homes for toxins.

"It's not about attorneys, it's not about Whirlpool, it's not about these people, it's about your community," Boyk said. "These people are just the faces of what's happening in your community. They have the right to answers and so do you."

<http://www.northwestohio.com/news/story.aspx?id=902740#.UaTER5ziqUk>

Clyde Cancer Cluster lawsuit discussed at town hall

by [Eric Wildstein](#)

FREMONT -- Clyde residents past and present gathered Monday at a town hall meeting at Fremont Ross High School to discuss a lawsuit in relation to the alleged Clyde Cancer Cluster.

Attorneys recently filed a class-action lawsuit against the Whirlpool Corporation, which claims evidence of dumping toxic material at several Clyde locations led to an outbreak of cancer and other health issues in adults and children.

Attorneys Alan Mortensen and Charles Boyk presented results from the Environmental Protection Agency's tests on the soil at four of the 14 allegedly contaminated sites. Results claim high concentrations of arsenic, PCBs, and other carcinogens in the soil at each of the sites. Further tests on attic dust in six Clyde homes say five contained unsafe levels of the carcinogen Benzaldehyde. All results tested above the U.S. EPA Residential Regional Screening Level.

Despite the findings, the EPA claimed soil contaminated at Whirlpool Park was too far underground for human exposure. Based on assessments and information the agency obtained from the sites, the EPA determined "Removal action was not warranted."

Residents are outraged. They hope the lawsuit will bring justice to those affected, including 30 children diagnosed with cancer, five who died.

"I don't just think Bubba was one of the few who was unfortunate," said Clyde resident Cinda McGilton, who lost her son to cancer. "I think it came from somewhere, just like with all these other people who it has happened to."

Attorneys told residents who attended Monday's meeting they will continue to test locations throughout Clyde for contamination, and they encourage help and support from the community. More information about the Clyde Cancer Cluster can be found at www.cancerclusterclyde.com.

<http://www.sanduskyregister.com/article/toxic-park/3760841>

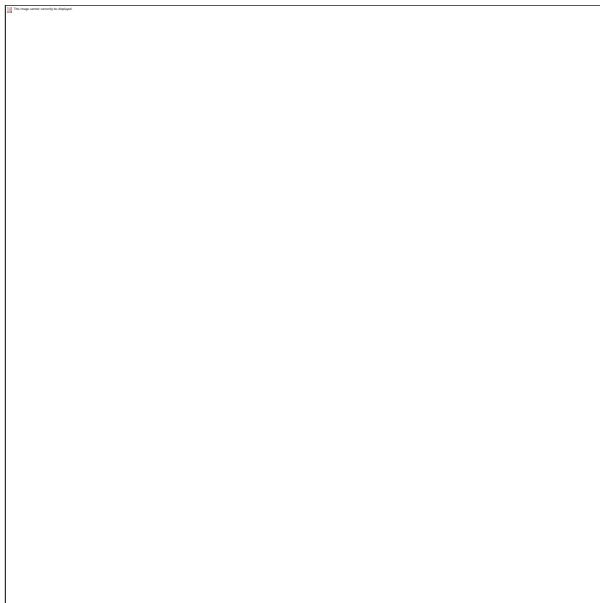
Dirt gets tested at Whirlpool Park

Company says let the science dictate.

Tom Jackson

Green Springs

May 21, 2013



Testing began Monday at the former Whirlpool Park in Green Springs.

With Whirlpool spending hundreds of thousands of dollars to carry out testing at the park, the company's leaders said they want employees and the Clyde community to know the company is doing the right thing, said Jeff Noel, Whirlpool's vice president of communications and public affairs.

Erin Brockovich and the Arkansas Whirlpool officials are committed to dealing with facts and solid science, Noel said.

As reporters watched from a nearby parking lot Monday, workers from two environmental companies used a machine to extract soil core samples, each about 3 inches in diameter, next to the park's old shuffleboard court.

Former swim park in Green Springs not the only PR challenge for Whirlpool. Get today's Register

The former park is located just west of Ohio 19 and Shaw Road, which also is known as East County Road 181. The park is a short distance north of Green Springs.

"They are estimating they'll be here about a month," said Fremont attorney Thomas Bowlus, who represents Jonathan Abdoo, who had planned to build a house on the site after buying the 27 acres from Whirlpool.

Eventually, large drilling rigs will be brought in so that water monitoring wells 80 to 100 feet deep can be set up to learn if the groundwater is being contaminated, Bowlus said.

About 12 sampling monitoring wells will be installed and 350 soil samples will be taken. The samples will be sent to laboratories for testing, where scientists will look for 200 different types of compounds, Noel said.

The lab test results should be available to the public by early fall, when the U.S. EPA and Ohio EPA make the results public, Noel said. The testing is done under supervision of those two agencies.

In limited tests done last year, analysts found PCBs and other chemicals.

"The regulatory agencies have made it clear there are no public health concerns on that site," Noel said. "Let's stick with the facts, the science."

Last week, attorneys representing the Clyde Cancer Cluster families filed a class action lawsuit against Whirlpool in federal court in Toledo. They cited test results showing benzaldehyde in the dust in attics in several Clyde homes.

Benzaldehyde is a common substance, so finding it in Clyde homes means little, Noel said.

"It's found in everyone's bathroom cabinet," he said. "It's in shaving cream. It's in deodorant."

Whirlpool has been in the community for about six decades, and perhaps that makes the company a target, Noel said. The company has about 3,000 employees at its Clyde plant, with many more Whirlpool retirees living in the area.



Last week, Alan Mortensen, an attorney for the cancer cluster families, said Whirlpool was not being factual when the company said it did not know how contaminants got in the soil at Whirlpool Park. Mortensen said he has witnesses who can testify to dumping at the park.

"I'll say what we have said before," Noel said. "We have no record and no information in which we knowingly approved anything being placed at that site."

Bowlus said Abdoo had planned to build a house on the site this spring. Prior to learning about the contamination, he received approval to connect to the local rural water supply, as well as approval for other steps before building.

May 20

FYI, clips about sampling at the former Whirlpool Park.

News Headline: Firm testing for signs of contaminants |  

Outlet Full Name: Toledo Blade - Online

News Text: CLYDE, Ohio — An environmental company hired by Whirlpool began testing for cancer-causing contaminants on Monday that might be linked to more than three dozen children being diagnosed with cancer in Clyde and Green Springs.

The testing, which is expected to take up to three weeks to complete, is being conducted at the former Whirlpool Park site, which the company sold to a private owner in 2008, said Jeff Noel, corporate vice president of communications and public affairs for Whirlpool.

The testing is being overseen by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Results of the tests are expected to be ready by early fall, Mr. Noel said.

"It's a very methodical process," Mr. Noel said. "It involves a lot of science, accuracy, and methodology."

During the next several weeks, workers from AECOM, a global company with facilities in Akron, Cleveland, and Columbus, will install 12 deep and shallow monitoring wells and take about 360 samples that it will share with the Environmental Protection Agency. The cost of the testing is about \$300,000, Mr. Noel said.

"It's the right thing to do," he said. "We're less concerned about the cost than we are about what the feds want us to do."

The testing comes a week after a federal class-action lawsuit was filed against Whirlpool Corp.

The suit, filed in U.S. District Court of Toledo, names 27 plaintiffs, including Warren Brown of Clyde, who lost his 11-year-old daughter Alexa to cancer in 2009. Most plaintiffs live in Green Springs and Clyde, an area where authorities have investigated why at least 35 children have been diagnosed with cancer. Alexa and three others have died.

The lawsuit links the cancer cases to exposure to benzaldehyde, a compound found in the attics of five Clyde homes a mile or less from Whirlpool's plant. The plant is located about 10 miles from the former company-owned park.

The suit contends Whirlpool “intended to deceive” government agencies and citizens and made false statements regarding its knowledge of chemicals, including toxins found earlier at the former Whirlpool Park.

The suit seeks a judgment of at least \$5 million.

Whirlpool officials have denied the allegations and have promised their full cooperation. But, the company also intends to defend itself and the integrity of its 3,000 employees and former employees, whom Mr. Noel describes as “very responsible, really good people who do good work.”

“I don't think the general public realizes the extent of testing and precautions that are taken,” Mr. Noel said. “Speculation, emotion — I think we have a lot of that right now.

“And, we have to be understanding of where people are coming from. It is a tough issue.”

According to property records, Whirlpool purchased the 27-acre park site in 1953 for use as a park for employees, their families, and friends. The park, which included a large swimming pool, a full-size basketball court, and other amenities, closed in 2006.

Company officials have said that they never used the park as a dump site or authorized dumping of any waste at the site. Whirlpool was notified of the contamination issue by the Environmental Protection Agency in July, 2012, they said.

Contact Federico Martinez at:

fmartinez@theblade.com

or 419-724-6154.

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News Headline: Former Whirlpool park tested for cancer-causing contaminants |  

Outlet Full Name: Toledo Blade - Online

News Text: CLYDE, Ohio -- An environmental company hired by Whirlpool began testing in its former recreational park today for potential cancer-causing contaminants that may be linked to 39 children being diagnosed with cancer in Clyde and Green Springs.

The testing, which is being overseen by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, is expected to take up to three weeks, Jeff Noel, corporate vice president of communications and public affairs for Whirlpool said.

Results of the tests are expected to be ready by early fall, he said.

"It's a very methodical process," Mr. Noel said. "It involves a lot of science, accuracy and methodology."

During the next several weeks workers from AECOM will install 12 deep and shallow monitoring wells and take more than 350 samples that it will share with the EPA. The cost of the testing is about \$300,000, Mr. Noel said.

"It's the right thing to do," he said. "We're less concerned about the cost than we are about what the feds want us to do."

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The suit, filed in U.S. District Court of Toledo, names 27 plaintiffs, including Warren Brown of Clyde, who lost his 11-year-old daughter Alexa to cancer in 2009. Most plaintiffs live in Green Springs and Clyde, an area where authorities have investigated why at least 35 children have been diagnosed with cancer. Alexa and three others have died.

The lawsuit links the cancer cases to exposure to benzaldehyde, a compound found in the attics of five Clyde homes a mile or less from Whirlpool's plant.

Whirlpool spokesman Kristine Vernier recently released a statement saying the company is evaluating the "new allegations."

"We will vigorously defend Whirlpool, its employees, and the community against these allegations. Whirlpool has been part of the fabric of the Clyde community for more than 60 years and we remain committed to acting responsibly," she stated.

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News Headline: Testing starts at ex-park near Ohio cancer cluster |  

Outlet Full Name: Dayton Daily News - Online

News Text: Whirlpool Corp. began soil and water testing Monday at a former park in a northern Ohio area where cancer has sickened dozens of children for more than a decade.

The Benton Harbor, Mich.-based appliance manufacturer has a washing machine factory in the town of Clyde and once owned the nearby park where the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said initial soil samples found high levels of a chemical believed to increase the risk of certain cancers.

Whirlpool has said it will pay for more than 300 test samples, Toledo's WTOL-TV reported (<http://bit.ly/Z8g8Cf>).

A recent federal civil lawsuit by cancer cluster families alleges Whirlpool's plant spread a

suspected cancer-causing compound into nearby neighborhoods.

In a Monday interview in Fremont, Whirlpool's vice president of communications told WTOL that allegations that the company contributed to the children's illnesses and deaths aren't supported by available data.

"There's no scientific evidence whatsoever to substantiate that," Jeff Noel said.

The families believe smokestacks from Whirlpool's factory sent a compound called benzaldehyde into neighborhoods where several of the children lived and were among the first diagnosed. Their lawsuit also accuses the company of dumping potentially cancer-causing waste at the now-closed park outside of the city just south of Lake Erie.



The families' attorneys say Whirlpool's factory uses benzaldehyde as a solvent in painting and porcelain coating.

Noel said benzaldehyde isn't used in Whirlpool's core manufacturing processes, and the company is looking into whether the compound is a byproduct in its processes.

The case is likely to take years to wind through the courts if it goes to trial.

Information from: WTOL-TV, <http://www.wtol.com>

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News Headline: Whirlpool starts tests at northern Ohio site, says no evidence links company to cancer cluster |  

Outlet Full Name: Republic - Online, The

News Text: FREMONT, Ohio — Whirlpool Corp. began soil and water testing Monday at a former park in a northern Ohio area where cancer has sickened dozens of children for more than a decade.

The Benton Harbor, Michigan-based appliance manufacturer has a washing machine factory in the town of Clyde and once owned the nearby park where the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said initial soil samples found high levels of a chemical believed to increase the risk of certain cancers.

Whirlpool has said it will pay for more than 300 test samples, Toledo's WTOL-TV reported (<http://bit.ly/Z8g8Cf>).

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Information from: WTOL-TV, <http://www.wtol.com>

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News Headline: Whirlpool won't test attics for benzaldehyde |  

Outlet Full Name: News-Herald - Online

News Text: CLYDE — Whirlpool Corp. does not plan to test the attics of homes that contained elevated levels of a chemical an attorney believes caused the local childhood cancer cluster, an official said.

A group of 29 people affected by the eastern Sandusky County cancer cluster, which sickened more than 30 children in the Clyde area, allege Whirlpool Corp. released the chemical benzaldehyde from its Clyde plant and caused the cluster.

They filed a \$5-million class-action lawsuit against the company last week. Benzaldehyde is a liquid that evaporates when exposed to air and is used as a food flavoring, in perfumes and soaps, in drugs and as a solvent.

"Benzaldehyde is everywhere," said Jeff Noel, company vice president of corporate communications and public affairs. "It's not listed by any regulating agency as a known carcinogen."

So the company does not plan to test the attics at this time, Noel said.

It is looking at its supply chain to determine if benzaldehyde is used there, Noel said. Whirlpool monitors its air emissions, but benzaldehyde is not something it is required to track, he said.

The National Toxicology Program, which is part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, does not list benzaldehyde as a known or reasonably anticipated carcinogen to people.

Mortensen, however, cited a New Jersey Department of Health and Human Services fact sheet that says benzaldehyde can cause genetic mutations and that determining whether it is a cancer hazard needs further study.

It also has been linked to cancer in rats and rabbits and is considered a toxic substance, he said. The levels of the chemical found in the Clyde attics were well above normal and would require cleanup, he said.

"Benzaldehyde has been a suspected carcinogen for years," he said. "This is nothing new."

The National Toxicology Program found no evidence of carcinogenicity in rats, but there was some evidence in mice, according to the National Institutes of Health, which is part of the department of health and human services. At the levels found in cosmetics, benzaldehyde is not considered a carcinogen in people, according to the NIH.

Mortensen has said Whirlpool uses benzaldehyde to make appliances, but Noel said the chemical is "not a core part of our processes."

During March, the families paid for the attics of five homes in Clyde to be tested, and elevated levels of benzaldehyde were found, Mortensen said. Children sickened in the cluster had lived in four of the five homes, he said.

It is the first time a common denominator has been found between some of the cancer victims, Mortensen said. He wants Whirlpool to test the attics as well, and then pay for cleanup.

"If they're not planning on testing, then my clients can go in and clean their attics," he said.

Since Mortensen and his clients announced the benzaldehyde findings last week, the Ohio Department of Health has released a fact sheet regarding the chemical.

ODH spokeswoman Tess Pollock said the department would not discuss Mortensen's allegation that benzaldehyde caused the cancer cluster.

"Since we aren't involved in the sampling or the lawsuit, we can't comment on that," she said.

The families were offended by the release of the fact sheet because they paid for the testing and provided results to the U.S. EPA, Ohio EPA and ODH with no response, Mortensen said. He felt the fact sheet portrayed benzaldehyde as a harmless substance.

"If there was ever a time to do a study on benzaldehyde and cancer, it would be now because

we have benzaldehyde and we have people with cancer,” Mortensen said. “I was dumbfounded by that fact sheet.

“I can see Whirlpool doing that, but to have the Ohio Department of Health do that is disappointing.”

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News Headline: Whirlpool starts testing near Ohio cancer cluster |  

Outlet Full Name: Lansing State Journal -- Online, The

News Text: FREMONT, OHIO — Whirlpool Corp. is beginning soil and water testing at a former park in a northern Ohio area where cancer has sickened dozens of children for more than a decade.

The Michigan-based appliance manufacturer has a washing machine factory in the nearby town of Clyde and once owned the park. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said initial soil samples found high levels of a chemical believed to increase the risk of certain cancers.

Whirlpool has said it will pay for more than 300 test samples.

Toledo's WTOL-TV reports Whirlpool's vice president of communications said there's no scientific evidence to support allegations that the company is linked to the cancer cluster.

A recent federal civil lawsuit by cancer cluster families alleges Whirlpool's plant spread a suspected cancer-causing compound into nearby neighborhoods.

http://www.marionstar.com/article/20130515/NEWS01/305150020/Whirlpool-blamed-cancer-cluster-near-Clyde?nclick_check=1

Whirlpool blamed for Clyde cancer cluster

Lawyers say cancer cluster caused by benzaldehyde

May 16, 2013 |

TOLEDO — At 4 years old, Sage McGrady has two diseases that have essentially crippled her immune system.

When she reaches school age, she will have to be home-schooled because she cannot attend regular class with other children, said her mother, Angie McGrady of Clyde. There's just too much risk that she'll get sick.

She suffers from an immunodeficiency disorder and is neutropenic, a disorder with low counts of a white blood cell that fights off infections.

"We've almost lost her twice when she's had infections," McGrady said.

McGrady's other daughter, 10-year-old Breanna, has Crohn's disease, which causes inflammation of the digestive tract. She was diagnosed after she lost 21 pounds in a two-month span, McGrady said.

The McGrady family spends a lot of time taking the girls to St. Vincent Mercy Medical Center in Toledo for treatments. But the McGradys' third child, a 14-year-old boy, is healthy.

They think they know why their son was spared.

His early years were spent in Danbury Township, before the family moved back to Clyde 10 years ago.

The McGradys believe Sage and Breanna were exposed to toxins in the Clyde area that caused the Eastern Sandusky County Cancer Cluster, which sickened at least 35 children in a 6.7-mile radius including Clyde, Green Creek Township and much of Fremont.

They joined other families in filing a class-action lawsuit against Whirlpool Corp. on Tuesday in U.S. District Court. The families and their attorneys believe they have found the cause of the cancer cluster and allege Whirlpool is responsible.

Elevated levels of benzaldehyde, a chemical used in making appliances, were found in dust tested in March at attics of Clyde homes, said attorney Alan Mortensen of Salt Lake City, Utah, who represents the families.

Benzaldehyde is a suspected carcinogen, Mortensen said.

Mortensen believes benzaldehyde was released either through Whirlpool smokestacks or as a vapor from dumped material. The families invite Whirlpool to test the attics and want the company to pay for cleanup, he said.

Whirlpool Corp. declined to comment beyond a statement released Tuesday evening.

“We will vigorously defend Whirlpool, its employees, and the community against these allegations,” Whirlpool spokeswoman Kristine Vernier said in that statement.

Five homes were tested for benzaldehyde, and children who were sickened in the cluster had lived in four of them, Mortensen said. This is the first time a common denominator has been found between children who have cancer, Mortensen said.

The home of Warren and Wendy Brown — whose daughter, Alexa, died of brain cancer — is 10 years old and showed elevated levels, he said.

“That indicates that this is something that happened in the last 10 years,” he said during a news conference Wednesday in Toledo. “We did a control sample in western Sandusky County, and there was no benzaldehyde.”

Benzaldehyde also is used in cosmetics, perfumes and as a flavoring agent, according to the National Institutes of Health.

At the levels used in cosmetics, it is not considered a carcinogen to people, according to the NIH, part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The contaminated former Whirlpool Park near Green Springs also remains a focal point. The lawsuit alleges Whirlpool buried toxic sludge at the park, causing adult cases of cancer among neighbors and disabilities in at least two children who lived near the park.

Mortensen said he is not sure whether the cancers at the park and the cancers among children are connected, although he said both show a disregard for public health and safety on Whirlpool’s part.

Whirlpool Corp. is the largest employer in Sandusky County and has more than 3,000 workers.

This is the second class-action lawsuit filed against Whirlpool Corp. regarding the cancer cluster this year. A Fremont firm represents another group of people alleging they were affected by the cluster, and that case is pending in Sandusky County Common Pleas Court.

Mortensen said the families have nothing to do with the first lawsuit and will not be joining that action.

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<http://www.13abc.com/story/22263760/clyde-cancer-cluster-families-sue-whirlpool-corp>

Clyde Cancer Cluster families sue Whirlpool Corp.

Posted: May 15, 2013 5:16 PM CDT Updated: May 15, 2013 5:35 PM CDT

13abc.com Christine Long - [email](#)

After seven years of searching for answers, families in the Clyde Cancer Cluster believe they've found the possible cause of the unusually high rate of cancer in the small community.

As a result of the new test results from attic dust samples, this week 27 plaintiffs filed a class action lawsuit in federal court against the largest employer in Clyde: Whirlpool Corporation.

They're seeking at least five million dollars in damages.

"We're turning up the heat!" says Steve Keller at Wednesday's news conference.

Keller's grandson Kole died from cancer six years ago. Keller is in the group of people suing Whirlpool Corporation for wrongful death and property damage.

"The problem is that corporate America does not see the Alexas of this world," says Warren Brown who lost his daughter Alexa to cancer in 2009.

The Clyde dad says he's keeping a promise he made to Alexa on her death bed.

"The only manner by which the Whirlpools of this world can be held accountable and forced to fix the unhealthy situations that they have had a hand in producing is by hitting them in their pocketbooks," says Brown.

The lawsuit alleges benzaldehyde, a hazardous substance and suspected carcinogen used in the Whirlpool manufacturing process, polluted the air possibly through emissions from the plant's smokestacks.

"We were stunned to find these in these attics," says Alan Mortensen, an attorney for the families.

Their evidence comes from an environmental expert hired by the families. Back in March the expert tested dust in the attics of the homes where kids died to get a sample of the air they breathed. He found levels of benzaldehyde far above US EPA standards in each one.

"We tested homes that were fairly new, 10 years old, and we tested a home that was 110 years old and they all have benzaldehyde at the same level," says Mortensen.

"It has pretty much wiped out financially everything that I've ever had," says Larry Ross, Junior, who is in remission after doctors diagnosed him with kidney cancer and leukemia.

The 52-year-old is a plaintiff because he lives near the old Whirlpool Park which is five miles outside of Clyde in Green Springs.

That's where the U.S. EPA last year found evidence of toxic sludge, PCB's, buried nine feet deep.

"One of the things I'd like to see to come out of this is whoever is the cause is to get things cleaned up. I don't want anybody to go through what I've been through," says Ross.

Kristine Vernier, a spokesperson for Whirlpool Corporation released a statement saying, "We are aware of the filing and we are evaluating these new allegations. We will vigorously defend Whirlpool, its employees, and the community against these allegations. Whirlpool has been part of the fabric of the Clyde community for more than 60 years and we remain committed to acting responsibly."

<http://www.toledonewsnow.com/story/22264259/clyde-families-lawsuit-alleges-cause-of-cancer>

Clyde families lawsuit alleges cause of cancer

Posted: May 15, 2013 6:03 PM CDT Updated: May 15, 2013 6:03 PM CDT

Posted by Holly Roney - [email](#)

Reporting by Natalie Clark - [email](#)

CLYDE, OH (Toledo News Now) -

A lawsuit filed by families in the Clyde Cancer Cluster says dust samplings done in the attics of their Clyde homes in March revealed benzaldehyde.

In a class action lawsuit filed Tuesday in federal court, victims of the Eastern Sandusky County Cancer Cluster and their families claim that benzaldehyde is to blame for the cluster.

According to the families, Benzaldehyde dust was found in every home tested where someone diagnosed with cancer in the cluster lived. A control sample, taken from a house on the other side of the county, did not test positive for benzaldehyde, attorneys said Wednesday.

The families allege benzaldehyde is a cancer-causing chemical that was used by Whirlpool in its manufacturing process.

"The filing of the suit against the likely producer of this compound is to give Whirlpool the chance to test our attics and then step up, clean them up, and in addition, make right the wrong that has been committed against our community," said Warren Brown, who lost his daughter Alexa to brain cancer in 2009.

Before Alexa died, Brown made several promises to her.

"I told her that we would find out why, and how, this happened to her, and that I would not relent until every door and window was nailed so tightly shut that it could not be open," he said.

Benzaldehyde is defined as a hazardous substance by the EPA, and attorneys for the families say it was found in every single home they tested in eastern Sandusky County.

The chemical was not found in any home tested in the western part of the county.

The lawsuit also claims that benzaldehyde and other chemicals from the nearby Whirlpool plant caused Alexa's cancer, and that of several other children who also died or were sickened.

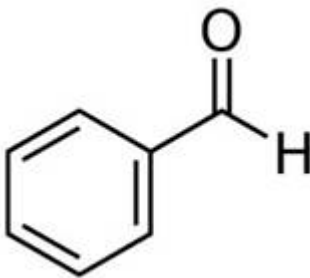
Whirlpool Corporation has released the following statement regarding the lawsuit:

"We are aware of the filing and we are evaluating these new allegations. We will vigorously defend Whirlpool, its employees, and the community against these allegations. Whirlpool has been a part of the fabric of the Clyde community for more than 60 years and we remain committed to acting responsibly."

What is benzaldehyde?

Posted: May 15, 2013 4:57 PM CDT Updated: May 15, 2013 5:00 PM CDT

By Nick Bade - [email](#)



(Toledo News Now) -

In a class action lawsuit filed Tuesday in federal court, victims of the Eastern Sandusky County Cancer Cluster and their families claim that benzaldehyde is to blame for the cluster.

According to the families, Benzaldehyde dust was found in every home tested where someone diagnosed with cancer in the cluster lived. A control sample, taken from a house on the other side of the county, did not test positive for benzaldehyde, attorneys said Wednesday.

Benzaldehyde is a colorless liquid with an almond-like odor. Attorneys for the families claim benzaldehyde is emitted during the production of household appliances, such as those made at the Whirlpool plant in Clyde.

The effects of benzaldehyde on the human body are not completely established. The United States Environmental Protection Agency lists benzaldehyde as a "hazardous substance," but does not say it is known to cause cancer.

An official EPA report states benzaldehyde "has not undergone a complete evaluation and determination under US EPA's IRIS program for evidence of human carcinogenic potential."

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Families in Ohio cancer cluster suing Whirlpool

Modified: May 15, 2013 at 3:32 pm • Published: May 15, 2013

TOLEDO, Ohio (AP) — Families whose children have been among dozens sickened in an Ohio cancer cluster for more than a decade are hopeful that they've come up with a cause.

Environmental testing paid for by the families found a suspected cancer-causing chemical compound in the attics of five homes within an area of northern Ohio that state health authorities have declared a cancer cluster, according to a lawsuit.

The families believe the compound called benzaldehyde came from a Whirlpool Corp. washing machine plant in Clyde, a city just south of Lake Erie where many of the first cancer cases were diagnosed.

Nearly 40 young people in the area have been diagnosed with various types of cancer since the mid-1990s. Three have died.

Attorneys who filed the federal lawsuit for the families said Wednesday that Whirlpool's factory uses benzaldehyde as a solvent in painting and porcelain coating.

There has been some research into the compound and its effects on animals, but it has not been studied well for human health effects, according to the lawsuit.

The lawsuit also says Whirlpool dumped other chemicals at a park it once owned near the city. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said last year that soil samples from the park showed high levels of a chemical believed to increase the risk of certain cancers, but it did not link the contaminants with the cancer cluster.

A statement released Wednesday by Whirlpool, based in Benton Harbor, Mich., said the company would vigorously defend the company, its employees and the community against the allegations.

"Whirlpool has been part of the fabric of the Clyde community for more than 60 years and we remain committed to acting responsibly," the statement said.

The appliance maker has previously said it wants to help find out what was causing the illnesses, and it paid for recent soil and water testing at the park it built in the 1950s.

Ohio health and environmental regulators have conducted hundreds of air and water samples during the past five years without finding any answers.

Some investigators speculated the cause was environmental and may have come and gone — maybe a chemical from a factory or a dump that polluted the air or water.

The diagnoses peaked in 2006, when nine children were told they had cancer.

Families frustrated by the lack of answers hired a private company earlier this year to test a water treatment plant, sludge from a water reservoir and dust in the five attics.

"The air is the one common thing that all of these children who've gotten sick and died have in common," said attorney Alan Mortensen. "They all played in the same air."



He said they now plan more tests to determine whether homes just outside the city of Clyde also have benzaldehyde in attics.

The families are seeking at least \$5 million in damages from Whirlpool and want the company to test the attics and clean them.

Warren Brown, whose 11-year-old daughter, Alexa, died of brain cancer in August 2009, said the families only want to find the truth.

"It is no secret now," he said.

April 29

News Headline: More tests planned at Ohio park near cancer cluster |  

Outlet Full Name: Columbus Dispatch - Online

News Text: GREEN SPRINGS, Ohio (AP) — Water and ground testing will begin next month at a former park in an area of northern Ohio where cancer has sickened dozens of children for more than a decade.

Soil samples showing high levels of a chemical believed to increase the risk of certain cancers were found in initial tests, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The park, once owned by appliance-maker Whirlpool Corp., is near the town of Clyde, where Whirlpool has a washing-machine factory.

Whirlpool said last week that it will pay for more than 300 soil and water samples at the site in the village of Green Springs on the Seneca-Sandusky county line. The tests are expected to begin in a few weeks.

The U.S. EPA's report on the findings did not link the contaminants with the cancer cluster, which has been under investigation by state and federal agencies for more than six years. Nearly 40 young people in the area have been diagnosed with cancer since the mid-1990s.

The EPA findings led Whirlpool to seek more testing, said company spokeswoman Kristine Vernier.

Vernier said she did not know how long it will take to complete the testing.

The park, built in the 1950s by Whirlpool, closed in 2006.

Grist Mill Creek LLC, of Fremont, bought the property in 2008. An attorney representing Grist Mill Creek said testing will occur with cooperation from the property owners.

The odds are against coming up with an answer for the child illnesses, even with the recent findings, because pinpointing the cause of a cancer cluster rarely is possible.

Investigators in recent years have focused on a 12-mile-wide circle just south of Lake Erie; most of it is farmland.

Many of the diagnoses were made between 2002 and 2006, leading state health authorities to declare the area a cancer cluster because the number and type of diagnoses exceeded what would be expected.

Note: The Vindicator, Fremont News-Messenger and Dayton Daily News also ran the AP article.

April 23

THE BLADE

One of America's Great Newspapers

Published: 4/23/2013 - Updated: 2 minutes ago

Whirlpool to take, test samples at old park site

Cancer link suspected at firm's former property

BY VANESSA McCRAY

BLADE STAFF WRITER

Share0 Tweet2 +1010101010

CLYDE, Ohio — Hundreds of environmental samples, thought to be linked by some to a children's cancer cluster, will be taken and tested at the former Whirlpool Park property.

Whirlpool Corp. on Monday announced it would move ahead with a plan to take about 360 soil, surface, and ground water, stream sediment, fill material, and soil pile samples at the former park near Green Springs. The company will pay for the sampling activity, expected to begin in mid to late-May.

A Sandusky County Common Pleas Court class-action lawsuit filed late last month alleges a connection between the cancer cluster, which includes at least 35 childhood cases within a 12-mile radius of Clyde, and the discovery of polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, at the old park. Of those cases, four children have died.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency last year found elevated levels of the contaminants in soil samples from the site, prompting Whirlpool to prepare a plan to conduct testing, said company spokesman Kristine Vernier.

Whirlpool and Grist Mill Creek LLC, which purchased the property in 2008, are defendants in the class-action suit filed by the Toledo and Fremont law firm Albrechta and Coble.

Attorney Tom Bowlus, who represents Grist Mill Creek of Fremont, said testing will occur with cooperation from the property owners. Mr. Bowlus said the goal is to examine the entire property, with a concentration of the sampling taking place in areas where there could be problems.

Ms. Vernier said she did not know how long it would take to complete the testing. The next steps, including potential clean-up efforts, would depend on what is found, Mr. Bowlus said.

Whirlpool has been working with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency on a voluntary action program to address concerns at the site. Ms. Vernier said the federal environmental agency provides oversight in the process.

The U.S. EPA stated in a December report that "further sampling is required to determine the extent of contamination."

Whirlpool purchased the park site in 1953 and used the property as a recreation area for employees, their families, and others. It closed in 2006.

Contact Vanessa McCray at: vmccray@theblade.com or 419-724-6065.

Fremont News-Messenger

Whirlpool Corp. plans to test park in May

GREEN SPRINGS — An estimated 360 samples will be taken next month at the Whirlpool Park property during the next phase of testing on the contaminated site, Whirlpool Corp. said.

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency has approved Whirlpool Corp.'s plan to investigate the soil, surface water, stream sediment, fill materials, soil piles and groundwater in affected areas of the park.

U.S. EPA tested for contamination on the land after receiving reports during its investigation into a childhood cancer cluster in the Clyde area that the park had been a dump site.

The next testing is expected to take place in mid- to late May, according to Whirlpool.

The testing is Phase II of an effort to investigate the toxins found last summer on the Whirlpool Park site.

The park was a popular site for friends and family of Whirlpool workers and was operated by Whirlpool for more than 50 years until it closed in 2006.

The company and the current landowners, Jonathan and Robert Abdoo, are working together on the testing with oversight from the U.S. EPA.

The U.S. EPA found 9 feet of sludge that contained cancer-causing toxins called PCBs buried along the basketball court and more by what used to be the tennis court last year.

April 11

Link to the 30-minute video of the press conference held on Monday (April 8) in Clyde by Warren Brown and his attorneys: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JE83lqfSN4o>

April 9

<http://www.sanduskyregister.com/article/golden-children/3574191>

Clyde Cancer Cluster lawsuit pushed, pushed back

New tests of dust from the attics of Clyde homes produced significant and important results in the hunt for the cause of the Clyde Cancer Cluster, but more information won't be released until further tests can be carried out, an attorney for the Clyde Cancer Cluster families said Monday.

Tom Jackson

Clyde

Apr 9, 2013



Attorney Alan Mortensen, of Salt Lake City, is representing seven families affected by the Clyde Cancer Cluster.

Mortensen said he has asked the U.S. EPA and Ohio EPA to carry out more tests and to weigh in on the significance of the results. His firm has hired chemists, epidemiologists and toxicologists in an attempt to make sense of the results.

“We don’t want to rush to judgment,” he said.

Noting a lawsuit has now been filed in the cancer cluster case, Mortensen said he wants to proceed carefully, to avoid misusing the results from the the initial tests his law firm conducted.

Dust samples were taken in six Clyde homes in an effort to find airborne particulates that might include cancer-causing substances.

A lawsuit is possible in the future if the cause of the cancers can be established, Mortensen said.

On March 28, Tim Lagrou, of Fremont, filed a lawsuit linking PCBs at the former Whirlpool Park to the cancer that killed his wife, Christina Lagrou.

Mortensen has suggested the lawsuit may be premature, but he also said he doesn’t know what additional information may have been obtained by Albrechta & Coble, the law firm that filed suit.

Warren Brown, father of Alexa Brown — an 11-year-old Sandusky County girl who died of cancer — also spoke at the press conference, where he criticized the Albrechta & Coble lawsuit.

Brown alleged that people seeking “the almighty dollar” to ease their loss have pressed the lawsuit.

“They have filed suit prematurely and opportunistically,” Brown said, noting that he’s speaking for himself and not necessarily for other families involved in the cancer cluster.

Attorneys at Albrechta & Coble could not immediately be reached for comment, but an employee said the firm will issue a response to the criticism soon.

The Clyde Cancer Cluster involves the deaths of at least four young people, as well as up to 40 others who were stricken by the disease.

In other developments:

- Mortensen said tests of samples taken from Clyde’s water treatment plant did not show anything significant, and he got good cooperation from Clyde municipal officials when those tests were carried out. “They were a pleasure to work with,” he said.
- New tests for contaminants at the former Whirlpool Park has not begun yet, but are still expected to begin soon, said Thomas Bowlus, a Fremont attorney who represents the Abdoo family, the current owners of the former Whirlpool property.

Last year, initial U.S EPA tests found PCBs and other possibly toxic substances. Whirlpool has promised to carry out further tests, and details are being worked out under the supervision of U.S. EPA officials.

Bowlus said he has quit making predictions of when testing will begin because he had thought tests would have begun by now. He said it’s possible tests could begin in the next three to four weeks. A written plan for the testing has taken longer to produce than expected, he explained. U.S. EPA officials are pushing hard for tests to begin, he said.

“They wanted it to have been started already,” Bowlus said.

- Clyde Cancer Cluster families hope that the new head of the EPA will visit Clyde, Mortensen said. Former EPA administrator Lisa Jackson had promised to come but never showed up before stepping down as the agency head. President Obama has nominated Gina McCarthy, a current EPA official. She’s awaiting Senate confirmation.
- Mortensen said he’s added additional heft to his legal team by bringing in Toledo attorney Charles Boyk, from the Charles Boyk Law Offices personal injury law firm. Boyk, featured at Monday’s press conference, told reporters that he had done research on Mortensen and found that Mortensen is a “national player” in toxic torts and is a member of a top law firm in Utah.

<http://clydeenterprise.com/local-news/dust-tests-revealed-something-significant-in-cancer-cluster-probe/>

Dust tests revealed something ‘significant’ in cancer cluster probe

Alan W. Mortensen, an attorney for 12 Clyde area families, said Monday that results of dust tests conducted in six local homes have turned up significant results.

Mortensen, with the law firm of Dewsnap, King & Olsen, represents five Clyde Childhood Cancer Cluster families and another seven families who live near Whirlpool Park.

Members of this group have paid for water and home dust testing as part of the search for answers to the cause behind nearly 40 children developing pediatric cancers over the past decade in the region.

Mortensen and his clients held a press conference Monday at the Red Roof Inn to announce some of the test results.

While water at the Clyde City Water Department tested clean, the attorney said other results would be turned over to the U.S. and Ohio EPA for verification and hopefully action.

Read more in this week's Enterprise.

<http://www.toledonewsnow.com/story/21913885/findings-announced-in-cancer-cluster-tests>

CLYDE, OH (Toledo News Now) -

The attorney representing 12 families in the Clyde Cancer Cluster held a press conference Monday to announce findings of recent tests conducted.

Alan Mortenson announced that nothing was found at the water treatment plant, but dust samples collected in six homes revealed "significant and important information." Mortenson did not, however, reveal what that information is.

He has requested further testing by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Read more here: [Group files Cancer cluster lawsuit against Whirlpool](#)

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From: Singer, Joshua
Sent: Tuesday, April 09, 2013 9:23 AM
To: Rowan, Anne; Durno, Mark; Wolfe, Stephen
Cc: Cannon, Phillippa; Suero, Mary Ann; Guerriero, Margaret; Karl, Richard; Martwick, Cathleen; Beckmann, Ronna Erin; Speizman, Elissa; Narsete, Virginia
Subject: Eastern Sandusky Clips about private tests results

Fyi. The three clips below are about the private environmental testing done by a consultant hired by the attorneys for Warren Brown and other families.

Josh Singer

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Region 5, Public Affairs Section

phone: 312-353-5069

singer.joshua@epa.gov

<http://www.13abc.com/story/21912165/families-not-releasing-full-clyde-cancer-cluster-test-results>

Families not releasing full Clyde cancer cluster test results

Posted: Apr 08, 2013 4:19 PM CDT Updated: Apr 08, 2013 5:21 PM CDT

13abc.com Christine Long - [email](#)

There are new developments in the search for what could be causing the high cancer rate in the Clyde-Green Springs area.

As we told you last month, families with children who have died hired an environmental expert to do testing.

The results are in, but they're not being fully released.

Attorney Alan Mortensen says he's pleased to announce that nothing significant was found in the samples taken from the Clyde Water Treatment Plant. He calls that good news for the community. However, he is not yet releasing the test results of the dust samples taken from the attics of several homes.

"We want the truth," says Warren Brown, who lost his daughter Alexa to cancer a few years ago.

After years of finding no answers, Brown and other parents took matters into their own hands.

Last month 13 ABC was the only news outlet allowed inside the Clyde Water Treatment Plant when the environmental expert hired by the families took a three ounce sample of lime sludge.

Monday the families' attorney announced that sample tested clean of carcinogens.

However, Mortensen is staying quiet on the dust sample results, only calling them "significant and important."

"One reason we are proceeding very cautiously with the raw data that we do have is we don't want to rush to judgement and harm anybody," says Mortensen.

Mortensen would not comment on if PCBs were found. He said the dust results will next be forwarded to the US EPA and Ohio EPA. The results will also undergo further analysis.

"We do not want it to be used in an improper way or an improper fashion," says Mortensen.

It appears Mortensen is holding back because about a week and a half ago a different group of families filed a \$750 million class action lawsuit against Whirlpool Corporation, the former owner of the old Whirlpool Park property in Green Springs. That's where last year the US EPA found evidence of toxic sludge buried nine feet deep.

"They have filed suit prematurely and opportunistically," says Brown.

Brown says he and the other families of kids who have died will wait to see the results of the deeper EPA testing at the old Whirlpool Park site in the next few months before taking legal action because there is not yet a causal link.

"If the truth in fact comes in the form of ten million dollars or ten dollars, it does not matter," says Brown. "We just want to know why, who, and what caused a statistical anomaly."

The attorney for the current owners of the old Whirlpool Park property was at Monday's news conference.

The Abdoo family bought the property from Whirlpool in 2008 and are also listed as defendants in the class action lawsuit.

Attorney Tom Bowlus represents the Abdoo family. He says they've been working with the EPA since learning about the contamination last year.

"We're trying to push forward as quickly as we can," says Bowlus. "We want to see the property properly characterized and then properly cleaned up if that's what's appropriate."

Joseph Albrechta is the attorney of the families who filed the class action lawsuit against Whirlpool Corporation and the Abdoo family.

Albrechta released a statement after Monday's news conference saying, "We were disappointed that the results of the study were not released and hope that if it contains information critical to the health of the entire community that it would be released immediately. There is no reason that the information cannot be released to the government and the public, who have a vested interest in the outcome."

Albrechta goes on to say, "We are all seeking the truth; we chose a different approach on behalf of our clients. The effects of toxic dumping in our community are far reaching. Through our class action we aim to hold the responsible parties accountable and bring closure for the families who have been affected."

A spokesperson for Whirlpool has told 13 ABC the company is working with the US EPA through the Voluntary Action Program. Furthermore, back in November of 2012, Whirlpool Vice President Jeff Noel told 13 ABC, "Our records show we did not knowingly, or have any record of putting any contaminants or any fill materials onto that property that would've been contaminated." Whirlpool bought the Green Springs property in 1953 and operated it as a park until selling it in 2008.

<http://www.wkyc.com/news/article/293768/3/Clyde-Second-lawsuit-filed-in-cancer-cluster-claim>

CLYDE -- A lawyer whose firm represents 12 families, including victims in a "cancer cluster," called independent testing in six homes for toxic residue "significant and important.."

But Alan Mortensen declined to elaborate on exactly what that means.

He said experts needed to interpret the findings and said they were being forwarded to both federal and state EPAs.

"Whether or not it's a danger to the community, we're going to leave it to the EPA to make that determination," he said.

The community of Clyde has spent years trying to learn the cause of an excessive number of cancer cases in the community.

At least 35 children have been stricken with various types of cancer . Seven have died.

For victims' families, the pain never ends.

"It was six years tomorrow that he passed away...we celebrated his 12th birthday yesterday," said Steve Keller grandfather of brain cancer victim Kole Keller.

Last month, a Fremont law firm sued on behalf of three families with members stricken by cancer. The suit seeks \$750 million in damages.

Mortensen suggested that suit may be piggybacking off research done by others, saying it might have been "done prematurely or with speculative opportunism."

Much suspicion for the cancer's causes centers on toxic substances allegedly dumped at Whirlpool Park here.

But there is no common denominator among cancer victims. They did not all attend the same school, live in the same neighborhood, drink the same water or have the same kind of cancer.

Warren Brown is the father of 4-year-old cancer victim, Alexa. He is a member of the group represented by Mortensen. He said he and others in the Mortenson group "just want the truth."

He suggested plaintiffs in the first lawsuit may be more motivated by money.

"We want the truth...if the truth comes in the form of ten dollars or ten million dollars does not matter," he said.

Keller said, "Kids are still getting sick."

Several law firms are monitoring the situation in this potentially important and lucrative case.

<http://www.toledoblade.com/Medical/2013/04/09/Families-want-EPA-analysis-of-data-from-cancer-cluster.html>

Families want EPA analysis of data from cancer cluster

BY VANESSA McCRAY
BLADE STAFF WRITER

CLYDE, Ohio — An attorney representing families affected by a cancer cluster wants more analysis of environmental test data he said contains “important and significant findings.”

Families hired a consultant who last month conducted tests to try to determine why at least 35 children have been diagnosed with cancer in the Clyde area in more than a decade; four of the children have died. The work included dust particulate testing in six homes.

Alan Mortensen, a Salt Lake City attorney who represents about a dozen clients including families who lost children to cancer, said Monday the data includes “some important and significant findings,” but he declined to release results until more analysis is finished.

He will send the information to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and ask it to determine if there is “a broader problem.” Families also will work with a chemist and an epidemiologist to study the findings.

“... [W]e don’t want to say we found something that was harmful when it might not be,” Mr. Mortensen said in a telephone interview. “We are going to be working hard on this for the next couple of weeks because we do need to get answers, and we want to enlist the EPA’s help.”

Joel Hebdon, an environmental consultant from the Washington area who collected samples from area homes, said a preliminary analysis is done, but he declined to comment, citing further “considerations.”

Warren Brown, whose 11-year-old daughter Alexa died in 2009 after a 2006 cancer diagnosis, said he is in search of the truth. His Clyde home was among those where testing took place.

“If we have some nemesis in the Clyde area, we have to find it and eradicate it,” he said.

He said the group plans to notify the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency as well as the federal agency of its findings. Mr. Brown said it’s important to study the information promptly, but not “jump to conclusions” or enter “alarmist mode.”

U.S. EPA spokesman Joshua Singer declined to comment on plans to send data to the agency. It is investigating potential contamination sources in eastern Sandusky County. Last year, it found elevated levels of polychlorinated biphenyls, considered probable human carcinogens, at the old Whirlpool Park near Green Springs, Ohio.

Ohio EPA spokesman Dina Pierce said the state agency routinely receives information from outside sources and would be interested in getting the test results. She said she couldn’t address what it might do with the data without knowing what might be sent, though Ms. Pierce said the agency would defer any determination on whether findings may be related to cancer to health officials.

Meanwhile, an attorney who filed an unaffiliated class-action lawsuit against Whirlpool Corp. and other defendants late last month called for the testing results to be made public.

“If they are finding problems in the community, let’s know what it is so the rest of the community can begin testing,” said attorney Joe Albrechta of the Fremont and Toledo law firm Albrechta and Coble.

The Sandusky County Common Pleas Court lawsuit his firm filed alleges a connection between the cancer cluster and toxins found at the former park.

Mr. Mortensen said releasing results of his clients’ testing now would be premature. He doesn’t want the data misused by the media or others, or in a court case.

In a written statement, Mr. Brown contends the class-action suit was filed “prematurely and opportunistically” without “their own science” to back it up.

Mr. Albrechta said evidence exists to proceed now with his case and that the discovery process will give “greater power to explore the truth.”

At a conference Monday, Mr. Mortensen also announced Toledo attorney Charles Boyk is joining the effort to assist his clients.

Contact Vanessa McCray at: vmccray@theblade.com or 419-724-6065.

<http://www.13abc.com/story/21912165/families-not-releasing-full-clyde-cancer-cluster-test-results>

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Meanwhile, an attorney who filed an unaffiliated class-action lawsuit against Whirlpool Corp. and other defendants late last month called for the testing results to be made public.

“If they are finding problems in the community, let’s know what it is so the rest of the community can begin testing,” said attorney Joe Albrechta of the Fremont and Toledo law firm Albrechta and Coble.

The Sandusky County Common Pleas Court lawsuit his firm filed alleges a connection between the cancer cluster and toxins found at the former park.

Mr. Mortensen said releasing results of his clients’ testing now would be premature. He doesn’t want the data misused by the media or others, or in a court case.

In a written statement, Mr. Brown contends the class-action suit was filed “prematurely and opportunistically” without “their own science” to back it up.

Mr. Albrechta said evidence exists to proceed now with his case and that the discovery process will give “greater power to explore the truth.”

At a conference Monday, Mr. Mortensen also announced Toledo attorney Charles Boyk is joining the effort to assist his clients.

Contact Vanessa McCray at: vmccray@theblade.com or 419-724-6065.

April 1

Toledo Blade: Class-action suit alleges cancer cluster, park ties

Filing blames Whirlpool for toxins

BY VANESSA McCRAY

BLADE STAFF WRITER

FREMONT — A class-action lawsuit filed Thursday in Sandusky County Common Pleas Court alleges a link between a northwest Ohio cancer cluster and toxins found at a former Whirlpool Corp. park.

The suit against Whirlpool blames area cancer cases on polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, at the old park near Green Springs.

It seeks punitive damages of \$750 million for 10 named plaintiffs in the Green Springs and Clyde area, as well as other class members, including everyone who died from exposure to PCBs or other toxins in a cancer cluster region defined in the suit as including parts of Sandusky, Ottawa, and Erie counties. It also seeks compensatory damages of more than \$25,000 for each plaintiff and other class members.

"Now is the time to initiate a lawsuit. Now is the time to begin to answer these serious and important questions," said attorney Joe Albrechta, of the Fremont and Toledo law firm Albrechta and Coble, which filed the suit, at a Thursday news conference.

The suit states Whirlpool "knew or should have known that dumping" or allowing toxic materials at the park "would injure its neighbors." Grist Mill Creek LLC of Fremont, listed as a defendant, purchased the park property in 2008.

The suit alleges Grist Mill Creek "failed to decontaminate" the site. One of the company's principals, Jonathan Abdoo, had planned to build a home there but those plans were halted after the contamination was discovered, attorneys previously reported.

Whirlpool spokesman Kristine Vernier said in a written statement the company is reviewing the lawsuit and is working with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Ohio Environmental Protection Agency to address issues at its former park.

"As a member of the community for over 60 years, with more than 3,000 employees in the area, we are also very interested in figuring out the facts behind this ongoing issue," the statement said.

A reporter's request for an interview was denied.

At least 35 children in the cluster area have been diagnosed with cancer; four of those children have died. Last year, the U.S. EPA found elevated levels of PCBs, considered probable human carcinogens, at the park. Ohio Department of Health spokesman Tessie Pollock said there's been no cause or specific site linked to the cancer cases.

Grist Mill Creek attorney Tom Bowlus denied liability, called the suit "premature," and said it does not establish a connection between the park site and cancer cases.

"They haven't shown that anyone was exposed to it or how it would cause cancer in anybody, much less the plaintiffs," he said.

The property owner has cooperated with Whirlpool as well as state and federal agencies to assess site contamination, Mr. Bowlus said.

The class-action suit is not connected with the work of Alan Mortensen, a Salt Lake City attorney who represents 12 clients from the area, including families who have lost children to cancer. He has not filed legal action, but the families hired an environmental consultant to try to determine the cancer cluster's cause.

Mr. Mortensen said his clients have no involvement with the suit.

Attorney John Coble, of Albrechta and Coble, said his clients wanted to initiate the suit now and also “get to the bottom” of the problem and fix it as best as it can be fixed. More answers and information will come through the discovery process as the court case progresses, he said.



Among the plaintiffs is Tim Lagrou of Fremont, whose wife Christina died in 2006 at age 23 from large cell lymphoma, the suit states. Mrs. Lagrou visited and was raised near the former park, and her mother used the park while she was pregnant with Mrs. Lagrou, according to the suit. It alleges her death is the result of exposure to toxic chemicals at the park.

Mr. Lagrou said she was in good health until less than a year before her death.

“It just kind of hit me, maybe this had something to do with it,” he said at the news conference for the suit. “The whole time she was sick, she would ask me why.”

The class-action suit seeks to include those who have been harmed by exposure to PCBs or other toxins, those who visited the former park between 1953 and 2008, and those who own nearby property. The suit also asks for the creation of medical monitoring and cleanup funds.

Contact Vanessa McCray at: vmccray@theblade.com or 419-724-6065.

News Headline: Suit is filed in child cancer cluster case |  

Outlet Full Name: Crescent-News - Online

News Text: CLYDE (AP) -- Lawyers in Ohio filed a \$750 million class action lawsuit Thursday against Whirlpool Corp. that's related to a child cancer cluster between Toledo and Cleveland.

The lawsuit attempts to link Whirlpool and others to the cancer cluster, though the families of the children who've been diagnosed with cancer aren't involved.

Three families filed the suit, including a man whose wife died at age 23 a year after she was diagnosed with cancer.

The U.S. **EPA** has said high levels of a chemical believed to increase the risk of certain cancers were found in soil samples from a former park Whirlpool once owned near the town of Clyde. Whirlpool has a washing machine factory in Clyde.

The findings, though, didn't link the contaminants with the cancer cluster that has been under investigation by state and federal agencies for more than six years. Nearly 40 young people

have been diagnosed with cancer since the mid-1990s in the area.

Benton Harbor, Mich.-based Whirlpool hasn't been directly connected to the chemical found in the tests.



A statement from the company said that it's reviewing the lawsuit.

"As a member of the community for over 60 years, with more than 3,000 employees in the area, we are also very interested in figuring out the facts behind this ongoing issue," the statement said.

Families whose children have been among the dozens sickened in an Ohio cancer cluster have hired a private company to test several spots around the area in northern Ohio.

Still, the odds are against coming up with an answer because pinpointing the cause of a cancer cluster rarely happens.

[Return to Top](#)

News Headline: Suit: Whirlpool is at root of cancer cluster |  

Outlet Full Name: News-Herald - Online

News Text: Written by Chike Erokwu CentralOhio.com

CLYDE — Christina Lagrou was born and raised in Clyde and, by her husband's account, enjoyed spending time at Whirlpool Park.

Lagrou and her family lived a little more than a quarter mile from Whirlpool Park, a park built by the Whirlpool Corp. for its employees and their friends and family. Her mother used the park facilities while she was pregnant and Lagrou continued the tradition, often swimming at the park for hours.

Lagrou was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in 2005 and died Oct. 21, 2006, at the age of 23, leaving behind her husband Tim and 1-year-old son.

"To this day, I can't understand how someone goes from perfectly healthy to gone in less than a year," Tim said. "Every day, my son asks if I know something about her, and I can answer a lot of questions, but when it comes to why, I just don't know."

Tim believes her death was related to the incidences of cancer in Clyde and eastern Sandusky County that led the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to designate the area as a cancer cluster. He and two other families filed a \$750 million class action

lawsuit Thursday in Sandusky County Common Pleas Court against Whirlpool Corp. and Grist Mill Creek, the company that currently owns the Whirlpool Park land, alleging negligence and suggesting the company could be at the root of the cancer cluster.

“The purpose of the lawsuit is to attempt to answer some very compelling and important questions to people of our community and people in the nation,” said attorney Joseph Albrechta, who represents the families involved in the suit.

The suit alleges the two companies were negligent and intentionally handled, disposed and concealed toxic waste, which was discovered during a site assessment of Whirlpool Park and released by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in November.

The **EPA** tested soil in Whirlpool Park, and found sludge containing PCBs, cancer-causing toxins, buried under the basketball court and what used to be a tennis court.

The park closed in 2006 as interest in it waned, and the land has been owned by Jonathan and Robert Abdoo, as owners of Grist Mill Creek, since 2008.

Whirlpool Corporation spokesperson Kristine Vernier released a statement confirming the company is reviewing the lawsuit. Vernier wrote that Whirlpool is interested in figuring out the facts behind the Eastern Sandusky County Cancer Cluster.

“We are working closely with the current property owner, the U.S. **EPA** and the Ohio **EPA** to address the issues at the former Whirlpool Park through the Ohio **EPA** Voluntary Action Program,” Vernier wrote.

Grist Mill Creek attorney Thomas Bowlus said the Abdoos were first made aware of toxic materials on the site after the **EPA** launched its investigation in 2012.

The suit alleges Grist Mill Creek breached its duty of ordinary care to neighbors by permitting toxic materials to remain at Whirlpool Park and that the company knew or should have known permitting those materials would injure surrounding neighbors.

Bowlus said the Abdoos bought the Whirlpool Park property with the intention of building on the site.

The class action lawsuit names all people who have died or suffered a personal injury to the claim. People who visited or used Whirlpool Park between 1953 and 2008 and anyone who owns property within 4,000 feet of Whirlpool Park also are named as plaintiffs in the suit.

The exact number of people represented in the suit could not be determined without information from Whirlpool, Albrechta wrote in the complaint, but attorneys claim no fewer than 1,000 people are members of the class.

In their prayer for relief, Albrechta asks for \$25,000 for the named plaintiffs — state maximum for compensatory damages. The plaintiffs ask for \$750 million in punitive damages, which would cover all members named in the class.

“That number was thought about very carefully,” Albrechta said at the news conference. “According to the website owned by Whirlpool Corporation, they make \$19 billion a year in sales. This is tantamount to two weeks of sales for Whirlpool Corporation.

“That amount of money, only the punitive portion, would go a long way toward helping the families in our community restore the loss that has occurred.”

Plaintiffs also request the creation of a medical monitoring fund and a park cleanup fund.

“In a case like this, medical monitoring might be the most important thing long term involved in this,” attorney John Coble said.

Whirlpool, which employs more than 900 people at the plant in Clyde making washing machines, announced it would test the land further in the spring.

At least 35 children in a 6.7-mile radius in eastern Sandusky County were affected by cancer. Ohio EPA testing could not determine a cause for the cancer.

419-334-1035

Twitter: @ChikeErokwu

ABC 57: Whirlpool faces lawsuit over cancer-causing chemicals
By Mandi Steffey

Story Created: Mar 29, 2013 at 8:17 PM EDT

Story Updated: Mar 29, 2013 at 9:47 PM EDT

Whirlpool Corporation is dealing with the fallout from a multi-million dollar lawsuit.

The lawsuit attempts to link the Benton Harbor based company and others to a child cancer cluster in Ohio.

The EPA has said high levels of a cancer-causing chemical were found in soil samples from a former Whirlpool park in Clyde, Ohio.

The EPA findings didn't link any of those contaminants to the cancer cluster, however.

Whirlpool said in a statement it is very interested in figuring out the facts.

19 Action News: NEW DETAILS: Clyde cancer cluster

CLYDE, OH (WOIO) -

A \$750 million class action lawsuit just filed in connection with the [Clyde Cancer Cluster](#) that has killed 7 children and sicken more than 30 kids.

8 plaintiffs want Whirlpool to pay up. They say the washing machine company caused the Clyde Cancer Cluster.

Our Scott Taylor was the first to show you exclusive video of Whirlpool Park. The now closed outdoor recreational park formerly owned by [Whirlpool](#).

The [EPA](#) found 9 feet of toxic sludge with PCB's under the basketball court. Tim Lagrou believes the [PCB's](#) seeped into the Park's one acre swimming pool and his dead wife Christina and her mother swam in it.

Tim LaGrou says "She quickly was diagnosed with large cell lymphoma and in less than a year she passed away and to this day I don't understand that somebody goes from perfectly healthy to gone in less than a year."

He and 7 other plaintiffs just filed a 750 million dollar class action lawsuit against Whirlpool and Grist Mill Creek LLC, the current owner of Whirlpool Park. They claim Whirlpool intentionally dumped the toxic waste and concealed it.

LaGrou's Attorney Joe Albrechta says "Now is the time to institute a lawsuit. Now is the time to answer these serious and important questions."

He adds that Grist Mill Creek LLC is named because Whirlpool Park still needs to be cleaned up. The lawsuit also calls for a Health Monitoring Program to be set up in order to monitor the future health of residents in the area.

Whirlpool issued this statement: "We are currently reviewing the lawsuit filed today. As a member of the community for over 60 years, with more than 3,000 employees in the area, we are also very interested in figuring out the facts behind this ongoing issue. We are working closely with the current property owner, the U.S. EPA and the Ohio EPA to address the issues at the former Whirlpool Park through the Ohio EPA Voluntary Action Program. We have submitted a Phase I Property Assessment Report and Phase II Work Plans for comment and approval by both agencies."

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March 28, 2013

<http://www.thenews-messenger.com/article/20130328/NEWS01/303280014/Class-action-suit-Whirlpool-negligent-handling-toxins>

Class action suit: Whirlpool negligent in handling toxins

Suit suggests manufacturer at root of cancer cluster

Mar. 28, 2013 12:09 PM |

FREMONT — A local law firm has filed suit against Whirlpool alleging negligence and suggesting the company could be at the root of the cancer cluster that has plagued the eastern end of Sandusky County.

Whirlpool is the largest employer in Sandusky County,

According to a statement from Albrechta and Coble, attorneys from the law firm filed a class-action suit this morning on behalf of Tom Lagrou in Sandusky County Common Pleas Court. It alleges the corporation “was negligent and intentionally handled, disposed and concealed toxic waste, including PCBs, which was discovered during a site assessment of Whirlpool Park and released by the U.S. EPA in November.”

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency tested soil in Whirlpool Park, a park built for employees of the company and their families and friends, and found sludge containing PCBs, cancer-causing toxins, buried under the basketball court and what used to be a tennis court.

The park closed in 2006 as interest in it waned, and the land is currently owned by Jonathan and Robert Abdoo, who bought it in 2008.

Whirlpool, which employs more than 900 employees at the plant in Clyde making washing machines, announced that it would test the land further in the spring.

At least 35 children in a 6.7-mile radius in eastern Sandusky County were affected by cancer, leading to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control to designate the area as a cancer cluster. Testing by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency could not determine a cause for the cancer.

A news conference is scheduled for Thursday afternoon.

March 6

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/03/05/clyde-cancer-cluster-ohio-pay-for-testing_n_2807723.html?utm_hp_ref=tw



[Hunter Stuart](#) [Become a fan](#)

Hunter@huffingtonpost.com

Clyde, Ohio, 'Cancer Cluster' Families Pay For Toxicity Tests Of Their Homes

Posted: 03/05/2013 9:36 pm EST | Updated: 03/06/2013 1:06 am EST

Families of children who became mysteriously sick in the so-called "[cancer cluster](#)" of [Clyde, Ohio](#), have [hired a private environmental engineer to test for toxic residue in their homes](#). An Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) investigation previously found dangerous compounds in the soil of a nearby area, but a direct link to the children's illnesses has not been established.

Like other [cancer cluster areas](#), Clyde has an unusually high rate of cancer diagnoses. Since 1996, [at least 37 children in the area have been diagnosed](#) -- and all live within 12 miles of each other. According to local news outlet Toledo Blade, [four of these children have died](#).

In the fall of 2012, the EPA found [high levels of toxic, possibly cancer-causing chemical compounds in soil samples from Whirlpool Park](#), formerly a residential area owned by home appliance manufacturer Whirlpool Corp from the 1950s until 2008. Locals told Fox Cleveland affiliate WJW that ["black sludge" had been dumped in the area](#) during that time.

While tests of non-residential sites in the Clyde area continue, some families with sick children are ordering private tests. Joel Hebdon, a specialist in hazardous waste who previously worked under the direction of the EPA, has been hired to analyze dust particles in the attics of the families' homes.

Alan Mortensen, a lawyer for the families, told The Huffington Post in a phone interview that nine area homes will split the cost of Hebdon's tests. All nine families have children who have been diagnosed with or died from cancer in recent years.

"The one thing that everyone has shared is the same air," Mortensen said, referring to the high number of cancer cases in the small town. "If [the results are] reassuring, that's one thing they can check off the list."

Whirlpool Corp. in April will conduct an EPA-led assessment of [soil and groundwater in Whirlpool Park](#). The company has said it [had no idea there was contamination at the site](#) until the EPA released its report in December 2012, the local Sandusky Register reported in November. Whirlpool has also [offered to finance cleanup costs](#).



As recently as 2009, state agencies had conducted tests in the area and [found that levels of contamination were not high enough to endanger the lives of nearby residents](#).

There have been no definitive answers as to what is causing such a high number of cancer cases among the area's children in the past 17 years.

Hebdon told HuffPost he started collecting dust samples in Clyde on Monday, and that he plans to send those samples to a lab by Thursday. He said he expects to hear results within two weeks.

People with tips or information relating to the investigation in Clyde should call the EPA's hotline at (312) 886 4359.

March 4-5, 2013

News Headline: Air tests of Clyde homes start |  

Outlet Full Name: Toledo Blade - Online

News Text: CLYDE, Ohio — Environmental consultant Joel Hebdon was busy Monday afternoon as he started collecting air samples to be used to detect whether environmental contaminants are in the homes of some Clyde residents.

Families have retained the consultant to perform particulate dust testing in attics, in hopes of finding the cause of a childhood cancer cluster in the area. At least 37 childhood cancer cases have been reported within a 12-mile radius of Clyde over more than a decade. Four of the children have died.

Alan W. Mortensen, an attorney with Dewsnup, King & Olsen, a personal-injury law firm based in Salt Lake City, represents nine Clyde-area families who have been affected. He said the most recent round of

testing is designed to be more comprehensive. "They're trying to find out whether there was something airborne that may have caused this cancer cluster. That really has not been explored yet," Mr. Mortensen said.

In 2007, the Sandusky County Health Department contacted the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency about the perceived high rates of cancer in the Clyde area.

After much testing at more than a dozen area sites, it was revealed that polychlorinated biphenyls, commonly known as PCBs, were found at an area park that was used by Whirlpool Corp. families and employees. PCBs are considered probable human carcinogens, according to the U.S. EPA.

Toxic sludge was also found in the park, which is near Green Springs, and some of the affected families suspect the findings might be the reason for the cancer cluster. The Whirlpool Corp., which sold the property in 2008, has agreed to do a comprehensive environmental study of the site.

Mr. Hebdon, an independent contractor from Richland, Wash., who specializes in corporate environmental policy, environmental restoration, sustainability, and hazardous waste treatment, performed two types of tests in the attics. He said the samples will give residents a historical cross-section.

"We're actually doing two things right now," Mr. Hebdon said. "We're using a protocol developed by the EPA for the World Trade Center ... It's basically a high-efficiency particulate filter ... and a vacuum and we suck dust into the filter, shake the dust off the filter. ..."

The dust is sent to a laboratory for analysis. Another method includes using cotton pads to wipe dust samples from surfaces. Sampling the air itself is a quick process, he said, noting the testing process lasts about 5-10 minutes a room.

Mr. Hebdon expected final results would be available in about three weeks.

Mr. Mortensen said the results will reach homeowners first. "It will be relayed first to the family members, to let them know, and then it will be released to the community as a whole," he said.

Attempts to reach some affected families were unsuccessful.



Testing will continue into midweek. Today, Mr. Hebdon will take samples of sludge at the Clyde Reservoir. On Wednesday, he will take samples from the Clyde Water Treatment Plant.

In February, 2012, 14 suspected contaminated sites in Clyde were surveyed by the U.S. EPA. The agency later reported that "13 of 14 sites surveyed were not contaminated."

Mr. Mortenson said the air sampling process can either end up reassuring, or further alarming, citizens. "... They can either feel better, or if there's potentially a problem, that can be addressed," he said.

Contact Kelly McLendon at:

kmclendon@theblade.com

News Headline: Testing begins |  

Outlet Full Name: Fremont News Messenger - Online

News Text: CLYDE — Trina Donnersbach said her daughter, Shilah, had lived in her home her entire life and never exhibited any signs of sickness until 2005.

Shilah Donnersbach was 18 when she first felt sick in January 2006 and 20 when she died from cancer in 2007, one of several children identified in the Clyde-area children's cancer cluster in the eastern part of Sandusky County.

Donnersbach decided last year that she wanted to go a different route to try to find answers to what might have caused the cancer cluster and brought on her daughter's illness.

Monday, an environmental engineer and his staff secured dust samples in Donnersbach's attic, as the Clyde resident looked on and talked about her daughter and her desire to find out something definitive about her home, if possible.

"Most of the people on this corner have had one kind of cancer or another.

"I hadn't thought to say 'check the attic,'" Donnersbach said, as environmental engineer Joel Hebdon and his staff went into her home.

Salt Lake City attorney Alan Mortensen represents Donnersbach and other area families affected by the cancer cluster, which includes at least 35 children sickened in a 6.7-mile radius that includes Clyde, Green Creek Township and much of Fremont, according to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency tested drinking water, surface water, air and soil quality, and found nothing to indicate a public health concern.

The families did not feel that agency's soil testing was entirely adequate, Mortensen said.

Mortensen said he and Hebdon chose attics for additional testing because there is a good footprint of pollutant stored in those household spaces.

He said the dust samples will be taken to a lab and tested for carcinogens, with the results being known probably within the next two weeks.

"We plan on coming back as soon as we know what the results are, whether they're positive or negative," Mortensen said.

The city is allowing Mortensen's environmental team to also test sludge removed from the water treatment plant to see if carcinogens from the water supply may have contributed to the cancer cluster.

That testing is scheduled to be done Wednesday, with sludge samples set to be extracted from the city reservoir today.

City manager Paul Fiser had previously said that the city had no concerns about the environmental team's testing of sludge removed from Clyde's water treatment plant, which is regulated by OEPA.

Hebdon is an environmental engineer and consultant with executive-level experience with the U.S. Department of Energy and Department of Defense, Mortensen said.

The engineer said the dust samples would be tested in a lab close to where Mortensen works in Salt Lake City.

"He'll be able to make decisions on the spot," Hebdon said of Mortensen.

Donnersbach said she decided to test her attic in the fall of 2012 after a meeting with Mortensen.

She said that there had been no one else in her family that had experienced major health issues while living in her home, but she added that she wanted to make certain there wasn't anything hazardous in the attic.

"I figure I'm raising my grandson here. I'd like to know it's OK to breathe," Donnersbach said.

FYI.

<http://www.sanduskyregister.com/article/toxic-park/3410726>

Families start their own testing for Clyde cancer cluster

Several families with children who died or have been stricken with cancer in the Clyde area have hired their own environmental testing firm to start testing various sites in a continuing search for answers.

Clyde

Mar 4, 2013

Testing will begin today, according to a news release from a law firm hired by the families.

Joel Hebdon, an environmental engineer and a specialist in hazardous and nuclear waste policy, sustainability and environmental program management, will conduct the tests.

"Mr. Hebdon will be doing dust particulate testing in various attics in homes in the Clyde area in hopes of locating a timeline of airborne particles that may solve the mystery as to what has been causing the recognized childhood cancer cluster in Clyde," attorney Alan W. Mortensen stated.

Hebdon plans to retrieve testing samples of the sludge at the bottom of the Clyde Reservoir on Tuesday and from the lime sludge at the Clyde Water Treatment plant on Wednesday, according to the news release.

http://www.wdtn.com/dpp/news/ohio/ap_ohio/Families-pay-for-testing-near-Ohio-cancer-cluster_63528317

Families pay for testing near Ohio cancer cluster

Updated: Monday, 04 Mar 2013, 11:46 AM EST
Published : Monday, 04 Mar 2013, 11:46 AM EST

CLYDE, Ohio (AP) — Families whose children have been among the dozens sickened in an Ohio cancer cluster are hiring a private company to test several areas in northern Ohio.

They've been waiting for years to find out what's behind the child cancer cluster centered in Sandusky County between Toledo and Cleveland.

The Sandusky Register (<http://bit.ly/Z1jcNA>) reports that a private environmental testing firm will begin work this week.

An attorney for the families that are paying for the tests say they'll be looking at dust in attics and sludge from a water reservoir and water treatment plant.

Since 1996, 35 children have been diagnosed and three have died from cancer in a 12-mile wide circle just south of Lake Erie. So far, no answers have been found.

<http://www.wfmj.com/story/21454814/families-pay-for-testing-near-ohio-cancer-cluster>

Families pay for testing near Ohio cancer cluster

Posted: Mar 04, 2013 10:50 AM CST Updated: Mar 04, 2013 10:50 AM CST

CLYDE, Ohio (AP) - Families whose children have been among the dozens sickened in an Ohio cancer cluster are hiring a private company to test several areas in northern Ohio.

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Information from: Sandusky Register, <http://www.sanduskyregister.com/cgi-bin/liveique.acgi?sch=frontpage?frontpage>

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Same article as above appears on Fox19 website: <http://www.fox19.com/story/21454814/families-pay-for-testing-near-ohio-cancer-cluster>

Feb. 2, 2013

U.S. EPA head breaks promise to visit Clyde

U.S. EPA administrator Lisa Jackson has made it official: She's not coming to Clyde to visit the families affected by the Clyde Cancer Cluster, breaking a promise she made in 2011.

TOM JACKSON

CLYDE

FEB 2, 2013



In addition, EPA officials have asked the families to quit sending questions to the EPA's headquarters in Washington, D.C., and send them instead to a regional office in Chicago.

Jackson wrote a letter in October 2011 to Warren and Wendy Brown — parents of Alexa Brown, 11, who died of cancer — saying she would visit Clyde to meet with the cancer cluster families after the EPA concluded its investigation in the matter.

In an October 2011 press release, Jackson said she would come to Clyde "next year."

As 2012 came and went, Jackson never showed up.

She announced recently she's stepping down as the EPA's administrator early this year. A replacement hasn't been named.

For more on this story, pick up a copy of Saturday's Register.

Scott Taylor, Channel 19 Action News, also did a similar story:

<http://www.19actionnews.com/story/20603563/epa-head-goes-back-on-promise-to-clyde-cancer-cluster-families>

January 26, 2013

http://www.thenews-messenger.com/article/20130125/NEWS01/301250026/Lime-sludge-tested-cancer-cluster-investigation?nclick_check=1

Lime sludge to be tested in cancer cluster investigation

Attorneys for families want to check for carcinogens

12:46 AM, Jan 26, 2013

Kristina Smith
Watchdog/enterprise reporter

The city will allow representatives for the families affected by the local childhood cancer cluster to test sludge routinely removed from the water treatment plant, the city manager said.

This comes after the attorneys for the families of children sickened in the Eastern Sandusky County Cancer Cluster sent a letter to Mayor Scott Black on Friday asking for permission to have an environmental team test lime sludge that will be removed from the treatment plant.

They hope to determine whether there are carcinogens in the water supply that could have contributed to the cluster, said attorney ...

Jan. 13-, 2013

<http://www.wkyc.com/news/state/article/278194/23/Clyde-Tests-near-cancer-cluster-in-works-for-winter>

Clyde: Tests near cancer cluster in works for winter

GREEN SPRINGS -- The owners of a former park near Clyde where cancer has sickened dozens of children for more than a decade say more tests on the soil are being planned.

An attorney for the site's owners say tests will likely take place in February.

The U.S. EPA has said soil samples at the now-closed park showed high levels of a chemical believed to increase the risk of certain cancers.

The former park near the town of Clyde had been owned by the Whirlpool Corp., which has a washing machine factory in the town.

The News-Messenger in Fremont reports the U.S. EPA is overseeing the testing. Nearly 40 young people have been diagnosed with cancer since the mid-1990s in a 12-mile-wide circle that's between Cleveland and Toledo.

The Associated Press

(A couple other news outlets ran this story.)

Dec. 12, 2012

Whirlpool, land owners reach deal on testing park

Company to review site for any toxins

Dec 12, 2012

CLYDE — The current owners of the contaminated Whirlpool Park and Whirlpool Corp. have signed a written agreement regarding access to further test the site for toxins.

Whirlpool Park will start reviewing the park near Green Springs this week with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's oversight, Whirlpool spokeswoman Kristine Vernier said.

Whirlpool operated the park from 1953 until 2006. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency found toxic sludge buried in the park earlier this year as part of its investigation into the Eastern Sandusky County Cancer Cluster.

The cluster has affected at least 35 children in a 6.7-mile radius including Clyde, Green Creek Township and much of Fremont, according to the Ohio EPA. A connection has not been made between the park and the cluster, but families of affected children believe it is a possible cause.

Whirlpool sold the property to Grist Mill LLC, a company owned by Robert and Jonathan Abdoo, in 2008. For weeks, the Abdoos and Whirlpool have been trying to reach an agreement regarding how further research of the toxins on the land would be handled.

"The agreement will allow Whirlpool onto the property to take the next steps in uncovering facts around this issue," Vernier said.

“After a site visit, Whirlpool will submit a sampling work plan to EPA for its review and approval,” she said. “Following that, Whirlpool will expedite the next phase of testing and take the appropriate actions based on the results.”

Dec. 8, 2012

Clyde working on dump issues

By Kristina Smith Horn Watchdog/enterprise reporter

December 8, 2012

CLYDE — Families affected by the local cancer cluster want to see properties the federal government investigated as possible dump sites cleaned up, their attorney said.

They likely will get their wish, officials said.

Whirlpool Corp. and the owners of the closed Whirlpool Park near Green Springs have reached a verbal agreement that would allow Whirlpool to go onto the land and test further.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency found toxic sludge buried near the basketball courts of the former park, which operated from 1953 to 2006. U.S. EPA received tips that Whirlpool had dumped waste there, according to the agency's investigation report of the site.

"They (Whirlpool) are going to evaluate the entire property, not just a few spots here and there," said Thomas Bowlus of Fremont, attorney for the park's current owners. "They were very cooperative in our meeting. Knowing what's there is going to help everybody."

Bowlus and Whirlpool's attorneys are working on a written agreement. The current property owner is Grist Mill Creek LLC, a company owned by Robert and Jonathan Abdoo.

Whirlpool spokeswoman Kristine Vernier said the company is finalizing details for the agreement, and the next step would be a site characterization.

"Working under the Ohio EPA Voluntary Action Program, with oversight from the U.S. EPA, Whirlpool plans to expedite all steps necessary to quickly understand the facts and implement appropriate actions," Vernier said.

The contamination at Whirlpool Park renewed focus on the Eastern Sandusky County Cancer Cluster, which affected at least 35 children in a 6.7-mile radius including Clyde, Green Creek Township and much of Fremont, according to the Ohio EPA.

A connection has not been made between the sludge and the Eastern Sandusky County Cancer Cluster, but the families of children who have been sickened or died in the cluster believe the dumping is a possible cause.

For years, agencies have searched unsuccessfully for the cluster's cause. OEPA tested drinking water, surface water, air and soil quality and found nothing to indicate a public health concern.

Although Whirlpool Park, which was a popular swimming and recreation spot open to friends and family of Whirlpool workers, has been the focus in recent weeks, attorneys for the families are concerned about other sites U.S. EPA investigated.

Alan Mortensen, a Salt Lake city attorney who is a Gibsonburg native, said the former Clyde City Dump and the vacant Clyde Paint and Supply sites are places of concern. He also thinks U.S. EPA should investigate Vickery Environmental, a waste-disposal facility near Vickery.

"I think the U.S. EPA came in and has done a very good job at identifying the problems," Mortensen said. "I think they need to go to the next step and identify the causes of the problems."

Clyde City Dump

Ohio EPA and Clyde City Manager Paul Fiser do not consider the Clyde City Dump a public health concern. U.S. EPA also has determined no further action is needed at the site, according to a letter the agency sent Fiser.

The dump, located behind the city's wastewater treatment plant, was open from at least 1930 until 1969, according to EPA records. Industrial wastes from Whirlpool and Clyde Paint were dumped there, including appliances, paint and enamel sludge, solvents and waste oils, records show.

"If you have a toxic waste dump, you clean it up," Mortensen said.

In summer 2011, OEPA assessed the dump site and neighboring Raccoon Creek, agency spokeswoman Dina Pierce said.

"There is leachate leaking from the Clyde City Dump," she said. "They found contamination, but it wasn't anything at a level of concern."

Low levels of metals were found in the water, but the amount was actually less than the Clyde wastewater treatment plant is allowed to discharge into the creek, Pierce said.

Although there is no significant environmental impact, the discharge of contamination into the creek can't continue, she said.

Groundwater from the east part of the property likely is moving west through the dump and into Raccoon Creek, causing some metals to bleed into the creek, Fiser said.

To resolve the issue, Fiser said the city plans to install drainage to intercept the water and move it into the creek before it picks up the metals.

Clyde Paint and Supply

The Clyde Paint and Supply Co., which was located in a residential area on Mulberry Street, also sat next to Raccoon Creek.

Soil samples there showed harmful compounds were found in levels higher than EPA's standards for residential property, according to U.S. EPA's assessment report of the site.

U.S. EPA, however, removed soil contaminated with lead, chromium and xylene from the site in November, according to a statement from the agency.

Other concerns

Vickery Environmental was not tested during U.S. EPA's investigation into the cluster. The company operates injection wells that are used to dispose of industrial and hazardous wastes.

U.S. EPA spokeswoman Anne Rowan would not say whether the agency would look at Vickery Environmental during the cluster investigation.

Two red clouds were released from Vickery Environmental in 2003 and 2006, according to a 2009 report regarding the cluster done by Sandusky County Health Department, the Ohio Department of Health and the OEPA. The clouds were nitrous fumes, which are not carcinogens, according to the report.

Mortensen pointed to those clouds as something that should be investigated further.

A Vickery Environmental spokesman was not available for comment.

In addition to his concerns about some of the sites the agency tested, Mortensen said the families are still waiting for U.S. EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson to visit the families as they say she promised to do months ago.

"Those families are waiting for her to come and are disappointed that she hasn't," he said.

Jackson's press secretary, Alisha Johnson, was not available for comment.

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Toledo Blade

Whirlpool Corp. agrees to do comprehensive environmental study of Clyde park it once owned

CLYDE, Ohio -- The Whirlpool Corp. has agreed to do a comprehensive environmental study of a 27-acre park it used to own where recently found contamination is suspected by some to be responsible for a childhood cancer cluster in southeastern Sandusky County.

Thomas Bowlus, attorney for property owners Grist Mill Creek LLC, said he was finalizing a written

agreement with Whirlpool today after reaching a verbal agreement with company representatives last week to study contamination at the site.

"We've reached an agreement to fully characterize the entire parcel so they're not going to just focus on one or two hot spots," Mr. Bowlus said.

Soil borings conducted for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency revealed the presence of toxic sludge at the former Whirlpool Park near Green Springs. The park, which was purchased by Whirlpool for its employees and their families in the 1950s, was a popular spot for swimming and other outdoor gatherings for decades. At least 37 childhood cancer cases within a 12-mile radius of Clyde have been documented; four children have died.

Whirlpool Spokesman Kristine Vernier said Wednesday that work at the site would move quickly as soon as a written agreement with the property owners is signed. She said testing and evaluation could be completed in 10 to 12 weeks.

"Working under the Ohio EPA Voluntary Action Program, with oversight from the U.S. EPA, Whirlpool plans to expedite all steps necessary to quickly understand the facts and implement appropriate actions," she said in an email.

Mr. Bowlus said Whirlpool will hire a certified environmental professional to conduct the assessment and "we will have our own certified environmental professional as kind of a second opinion. They're going to split samples with us. Every sample taken will be run by two different labs so we're going to have a high degree of confidence in the numbers and we'll know this was done properly."

Whirlpool will pay all costs, Ms. Vernier said.

The agreement comes just three weeks after attorneys representing the families of Clyde-area children diagnosed with cancer held a news conference in Clyde to draw attention to the EPA's findings at the park and to demand action.

Deal to allow more tests near Clyde cancer cluster
Posted: 12.06.2012 at 9:22 AM

CLYDE (AP) -- The owner of a former park in an area of northern Ohio where cancer has sickened dozens of children for more than a decade is agreeing to allow tests of the site.

This comes just weeks the announcement that soil samples at the now-closed park showed high levels of a chemical believed to increase the risk of certain cancers.

The former park near the town of Clyde had been owned by the Whirlpool Corp., which has a washing machine factory in the town.

[The Sandusky Register](#) reports that Benton Harbor, Mich.-based Whirlpool and the current land owner reached a verbal agreement to allow more tests.

Nearly 40 young people have been diagnosed with cancer since the mid-1990s in a 12-mile-wide circle that's between Cleveland and Toledo.

Dec. 1, 2012

Clyde's cancer-cluster mystery continues, as does its pain

BY TOM HENRY

BLADE COLUMNIST

CLYDE, Ohio Sandusky County's unexplained cancer cluster has caused gut-wrenching emotions for years. But anger has again overridden frustration now that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has found sludge with high levels of cancer-causing PCBs and other toxic chemicals in the 27-acre Whirlpool Park southwest of here.

Whirlpool Park was private land with a swimming pool when Clyde's largest employer, Whirlpool Corp., acquired it in 1953. According to Whirlpool spokesman D. Jeffrey Noel, the corporation sent heavy equipment to the rural site six to eight times, mostly during the 1950s, to shape the park into a facility that included basketball courts, tennis courts, and meeting rooms.

Mr. Noel said raw pond or river water probably was used to fill the swimming pool during the park's early years, a common practice of the era.

Although it was built for Whirlpool employees, the park's admission policy was so generous that anyone who was a friend of a worker was allowed to use it. Mr. Noel said most people came to think of it as a community park because so few people were turned away.

The park stayed open until 2006, then was sold to a would-be developer, Grist Mill Creek, in 2008 for \$212,000. The buyer planned to build homes on the site. But now, after learning about the pollution, its attorney is trying to get Whirlpool to buy it back.

How the park got so polluted remains a mystery. Mr. Noel said there was a good chance that much of the contamination was on site, unknown to Whirlpool, when the corporation operated it as a park. He said there are no records of Whirlpool authorizing or having knowledge of dumping there.

Sampling probes found waste nearly 10 feet deep near the basketball courts, accompanied by petroleum odors. It is not known whether the park was a dump site, or whether contaminated fill might have been used during construction activities that predated modern environmental laws, Mr. Noel said.

What galls locals is that the sampling was done only a few months ago. The U.S. EPA said it investigated Whirlpool Park after it was tipped off about the park's past. The federal agency was looking for pollution signs the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, the Ohio Department of Health, and the Sandusky County health department might have overlooked to help explain the area's unusual cancer outbreak, which has affected children and teens in nearly 40 families.

Attorneys who represent the families question not only the thoroughness of the state-led cancer investigation that preceded U.S. EPA involvement, but also the federal agency's decision to post its sampling results online without notifying their clients. Toxic sludge is a big deal, they argue, especially at a depth of nearly 10 feet.

At a news conference called to discuss the findings, Warren Brown held up a photo of his daughter, Alexa, who was 11 when she died of cancer in 2011.

"When Alexa lay on her deathbed, I told her, her death would not be in vain," said Mr. Brown, the Sandusky County administrator. "We are going to get some answers."

Steve Keller, whose grandson, Kole, was 5 when he died of cancer in 2007, fought back tears. "There's a human face to this," he said. Nothing infuriated him more than when state officials told Clyde-area residents in May, 2011, that they had reached an impasse.

Cancer clusters are hard enough to identify when evidence points to a source of contamination. This one didn't. State agencies didn't have much to go on. Even now, it's unclear how much emphasis to put on the park or any other site.

This case goes beyond Clyde and its area. Residents across Ohio have reason to wonder what is being missed in their communities. But more than regulatory competence is at stake. State and federal officials rely heavily on industry self-reporting to protect the public's health. They need cooperation from corporations.

Whirlpool said it will provide that. It soon plans to submit a voluntary cleanup plan to state and federal officials, Mr. Noel said.

The Clyde-area cancer investigation has been under way since 2006. Trina Donnersbach, a Clyde-area woman whose daughter, Shilah, died of cancer in 2007 at age 20, said she's dumbfounded that families of childhood cancer victims are just now learning about the park.

She's not the only one.

Tom Henry is an editorial writer and columnist for The Blade. Contact him at: thentry@theblade.com

Nov. 24, 2012

<http://www.toledoblade.com/Editorials/2012/11/24/Clyde-cancer-probe.html>

Clyde cancer probe

The cancer cluster that has included nearly 40 Sandusky County children and their families is an issue of accountability. The polluter must be held accountable, but so must regulatory agencies if their investigations were inadequate.

The latest revelation is the discovery of toxic sludge at the former 27-acre Whirlpool Park near Green Springs, 6 miles southwest of Whirlpool's factory in Clyde. The site, which Whirlpool acquired in 1953, was developed into a park for company employees and guests. It stayed open until 2006 then was sold to a would-be developer in 2008.

Screening done only months ago by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency found pervasive levels of banned industrial lubricants known as PCBs and other chemicals that are known to cause cancer. Samples taken from one area showed signs of toxic sludge 10 feet deep, accompanied by petroleum odors.

The park featured basketball courts, tennis courts, and a popular swimming pool. The latter was filled with pond water in its early years.

Whirlpool, which learned about the EPA sampling results in July, is offering to pay for a more comprehensive site assessment. A company spokesman told The Blade that Whirlpool has no records of any dumping or use of contaminated fill on its behalf at the site. He said the company was as startled by the discovery as everyone else.

Next week, Whirlpool is scheduled to meet with the current owner of the site to continue discussions on a buy-back proposal. The company said it wants to regain unrestricted access to move forward with a cleanup. The spokesman said it is prepared to pay for such an effort, because there is a strong possibility the waste was present during the 55 years it owned the site.

The U.S. EPA received about 90 calls about the park on a hot line it established long after state regulators finished their work at the site. The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the Ohio Department of Health repeatedly have called the cancer cluster their No. 1 priority.

Yet in light of the pollution discovered at the former Whirlpool Park, some local families question that assertion. They want other sites revisited, especially Clyde's city dump and sites where Vickery Environmental Inc. has injected tons of chemical waste.

The discovery of Whirlpool Park's waste could impair relations between Clyde-area residents and both Whirlpool and state government. The U.S. EPA's work has set the investigation on a new path. But the federal agencies did not present the sampling data to local families; their attorneys found the information online.

It is unclear whether anyone will reopen or widen the investigation of the cancer cluster in Sandusky County. But local residents still need, and deserve, credible answers.

Nov. 16

<http://www.thenews-messenger.com/article/20121116/NEWS01/311160004/Whirlpool-cleanup-dispute-over-cancer-cluster>

Whirlpool in cleanup dispute over cancer cluster

Property owner wants land to meet residential standard

CLYDE — The owners of the contaminated Whirlpool Park want former owner Whirlpool Corp. to clean up toxic chemicals on the site and ready it for residential use, their attorney said.

Whirlpool, however, has proposed to clean up the site enough that it can be used for commercial and industrial ventures, said Thomas Bowlus of Fremont, attorney for the park's owners.

Current owners Jonathan Abdoo and his father, Robert, bought the former children's park in Green Springs in 2008 with the plan for Jonathan Abdoo to build a house there next spring, Bowlus said. The Abdoos own Grist Mill Creek LLC, which is listed as the park's legal owner.

"If the property would be sufficiently cleaned up, he would still love to live there," Bowlus said. "He's wanted that property for a long time. It's his dream property."

The park once housed a pool, basketball court and playground equipment and was a popular spot for locals to play and swim. It was open to friends and family of Whirlpool Corp. workers.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency tested the land after receiving tips that the site had been used as a dumping ground, Bowlus said. It found 9 feet of toxic sludge buried beneath the surface that contained PCBs — cancer-causing toxins — in levels that exceed the EPA's standards and met requirements for land that should be cleaned up.

"We had no idea until the U.S. EPA contacted (Jonathan Abdoo)," Bowlus said.

Families of children who have been sickened or died of cancer in a childhood cancer cluster that has affected eastern Sandusky County believe this contamination could be a cause of the cluster, said one of their attorneys, Alan Mortensen of Salt Lake City, Utah. The area where the sludge was found slopes into a pond on the property, and the pond was used to fill the swimming pool, Mortensen said.

Many mothers of the children spent time at the park and could have been exposed, transferring the exposure of harmful chemicals to their fetuses before the children were born, Mortensen said Wednesday.

Whirlpool approached the Abdoos about accessing the property for more testing and potential cleanup, Bowlus and Whirlpool spokesman Jeff Noel said. "

Whirlpool is committed to doing the right thing," Noel said.

Their stories diverge there.

Whirlpool maintains the Abdoos will not give it reasonable access to the site and that when Whirlpool offered to buy the land, Jonathan Abdoo wanted too much for it. The Abdoos paid \$212,000 for the property, and its value has been reduced in light of the contamination, Bowlus said.

Bowlus maintains the Abdoos approached Whirlpool about a sale if the company would not clean it up to residential standards and have cooperated with the U.S. EPA to allow testing on the land. He also would like to see Whirlpool clean up the property according to the Ohio EPA's Voluntary Action Program for residential land.

The residential standard is much higher than a commercial standard, he said. The U.S. EPA would decide whether to implement the state cleanup standard, he said.

"I was the primary rule writer when those standards came up," said Bowlus, a former Ohio EPA employee. "I think they are some of the best cleanup standards in the U.S."

Whirlpool had "very positive conversations" with Bowlus, but when it came to putting things in writing, the company backed off.

"I would love for us to be working hand-in-hand and on the same page with Whirlpool," Bowlus said. "If we can rebuild some of the trust and comfort level here and get them to commit to things they said they'd do, I think we can move forward."

Whirlpool has said it will work with the U.S. EPA to clean up the site if it is determined the dumping took place there while Whirlpool owned the land. That is contingent on the company reaching an agreement with the Abdoos to access the land, Noel said Wednesday.

The company also has no record of dumping taking place at the park, which it bought in 1953 and kept open until 2006, Noel said. Mortensen said he believes the dumping took place in the '70s and '80s.

Nov. 14-16

News Headline: Cancer cluster families: 'We're going to get some answers'

Outlet Full Name: Sandusky Register - Sandusky

News Text: Steve Keller choked back tears Wednesday afternoon as he held up a photo of his grandson, Kole Keller, who died of cancer at the age of 6.

Tom Jackson

Clyde

"There is a human face on all of this," Keller said. "There are other faces out there. This community has to be made safe."

Kole died in April 2007, a victim of the childhood cancer cluster in Eastern Sandusky County.

Sitting beside Keller in the Whirlpool Room at Clyde Public Library was Warren Brown, whose daughter, Alexa, died of cancer in 2009 at age 11.

"I'm not going to make any comments," Brown said, television news cameras trained on him. "I want you to focus in on that."

He somberly picked up a photo of his daughter.

"We're going to get some answers," Brown said. "(When) Alexa lay on her death bed, I told her her death would not be in vain. We are going to get some answers."

Now, for the first time since Alexa was diagnosed with cancer and later died of the disease, her parents suspect answers are beginning to emerge about the Clyde cancer cluster.

"I feel more hopeful we're going to at least find out the truth," said Wendy Brown, Alexa's mother.

The Browns and other relatives of local children who have died from cancer attended the news conference in Clyde, alongside two attorneys hired to represent several of the families.

At least four young people in the Clyde area have died of cancer: Alexa in 2009; Shilah Donnersbach, 20, in 2007; Kole in 2007; and Jacob "Bubba" Andrews, 22, in March 2012.

Up to 40 children in the area have contracted cancer.

Investigators believe they could be zeroing in on real answers.

The families' two attorneys, Alan Mortensen and Dustin Lance of Salt Lake City, reviewed new information about sites in the Clyde area that are contaminated by possible carcinogenic

chemicals.

A new U.S. EPA report, posted in late October on a U.S. EPA website, shows the presence of numerous cancer-causing chemicals at the former Whirlpool Park at Township Road 187 and County Road 181 in Green Springs.

The park, built by Whirlpool in the early 1950s, had a swimming pool, playground and other amenities.

The EPA report indicates testing uncovered a large number of PCBs — believed to be a cancer-causing agent — at the park, along with toxic metals.

Because of the findings, the EPA will have to require a cleanup, Mortensen said.

Whirlpool responds

Jeffrey Noel, Whirlpool's vice president for communications and public affairs, said Whirlpool is eager to work with the U.S. EPA to carry out additional testing at Whirlpool Park.

The company has not yet reached an agreement with the current owner of the property.

If necessary, the company will pay for a site cleanup, he said.

“It was used as a park parcel when it was purchased,” Noel said. “Whirlpool did not knowingly expand the park on a contaminated site.

“We became aware of the findings when the EPA gave us a copy of the sampling data,” Noel said. “That was the first time we became aware there was contamination on the site.”

Whirlpool bought the park in 1953, and records show the pool had been there since 1930, Whirlpool spokeswoman Kristine Vernier said.

The park closed in 2006 and was sold in 2008, she said.

Whirlpool Clyde plant leader Dan O'Brien wrote a letter to employees, outlining steps the company has taken to carry out further testing at Whirlpool Park.

“Meanwhile, it is important to understand, that we truly believe there is no current exposure risk posed by this substance,” O'Brien wrote. “As stated in U.S. EPA materials, PCBs are a very stable substance that does not readily migrate, and the use and disposal of PCBs was a common practice, and within the laws and standards of the 1950s and 1960s.”

His email continued: “We continue to work toward gaining access to the site and will continue to work with state and federal agencies to abide by the law, and address the issues on the site until they are satisfactorily resolved in the best interest of the community and its residents.”

Mortensen said his law firm knows Whirlpool Park was used by the company as a dump site.

“It was intentionally put there and used to landscape the park,” he said.

Noel said Whirlpool wants to carry out further testing, working with the U.S. EPA to get the facts.

“I simply can't address a statement or speculation that somebody has provided,” he said.

According to Whirlpool records, the site was used for recreation, he said.

The attorneys also discussed other sites they believe deserve further investigation, including the Clyde city dump, where Mortensen said Whirlpool dumped much of its waste. The site has arsenic, PCBs, Boron and other potentially harmful chemicals, Mortensen said.

Raccoon Creek also goes by the dump.

“There is leachate you can still see of toxins going into Raccoon Creek,” he said.

PCBs and arsenic have been found at the Whirlpool manufacturing site, although the EPA concluded nothing needed to be done, Mortensen said.

The two attorneys emphasized they don't know that the Clyde cancer cluster was caused by chemicals at any of the sites under review, and they do not plan to file a lawsuit unless they're sure they can assign responsibility.

“You don't want to sue the wrong person,” Lance said. “You don't want to sue someone who's innocent.”

If answers from Whirlpool and other parties aren't forthcoming, the attorneys said they'd file a lawsuit to give themselves subpoena power, which would force the answers in court.

The attorneys said they'll represent the families in pressing government agencies and Whirlpool Corp. for more information about the findings, and they'll carry out their own investigation as much as possible.

They announced a hotline number, 419-552-1988, which they said local residents can call to offer tips and suggestions for further investigation.

They cautioned, however, they cannot guarantee anonymity and might be forced to reveal who called with any particular bits of information.

When the preliminary results from EPA testing at Whirlpool Park were announced during the summer, Warren Brown, Alexa's father, said he doubted the park was connected to the cancer cluster.

On Wednesday, however, he indicated he wants to wait for all of the facts before expressing an opinion.

Keller, Kole's grandpa, said he was “infuriated” when the Ohio EPA came in and said there was nothing there.

Trina Donnersbach, mother of Shilah Donnersbach, also attended the news conference and held up a photo of her daughter.

The attorneys said a woman who used to live next to Whirlpool Park also contracted cancer. The woman's dog died of cancer, too, they said.

One man who attended Wednesday's news conference said he lives next to the park — he asked if he is safe.

Mortensen said he can't answer the question, unless testing is carried out. He suggested the man ask the U.S. EPA to do tests on his property.

“I would be concerned,” Mortensen told the man.

Last year, U.S. EPA administrator Lisa Jackson promised she would come to Clyde to meet with the families affected by the Clyde cancer cluster.

Mortensen said his firm has contacted Jackson's office and asked about the promise, and he hasn't received a reply yet. While the families believe the U.S. EPA should carry out further testing, there's been no commitment from the agency.

“They said that everything is finished for the time being,” Mortensen said.

The attorneys said they're experienced in handling disaster litigation.

News Headline: EPA report troubles Ohio cancer cluster families | ■✉

Outlet Full Name: Marietta Times – Online (AP Story appeared in other outlets)

News Text: CLYDE, Ohio (AP) — Soil samples showing high levels of a chemical believed to increase the risk of certain cancers were found at a former park in an area of northern Ohio where cancer has sickened dozens of children for more than a decade, according to environmental regulators.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency report on the findings, though, doesn't link the contaminants with the cancer cluster that has been under investigation by state and federal agencies for more than six years. Nearly 40 young people have been diagnosed with cancer since the mid-1990s in the area.

The odds are against coming up with an answer, even with this recent finding, because pinpointing the cause of a cancer cluster rarely happens.

Environmental regulators began testing for contamination in the Clyde area between Cleveland and Toledo earlier this year. State agencies already had conducted a variety of tests, including air and groundwater sampling and radiation checks at homes and schools.

The EPA found that soil samples taken in June near a basketball court showed metals and PCBs, or polychlorinated biphenyls, in amounts exceeding what the EPA considers safe levels.

The park in the village of Green Springs was built in the 1950s by Whirlpool Corp., which has a washing machine factory in Clyde. The park closed about five years ago.

A tip left on a hotline indicated the Benton Harbor, Mich.-based company used a black sludge-like material to fill in the area near the basketball court, the EPA report said.

Whirlpool said in a statement that the current property owner has turned down requests for additional testing. "We are prepared to move forward immediately with the first steps of the evaluation once granted access to the property," the company said.

Families whose children were among those diagnosed with brain tumors, leukemia, lymphoma and other forms of cancer said they were troubled by the report.

"Obviously it is upsetting to learn that such significant amounts of poison sludge are dumped anywhere, but to either dump it in proximity or cover it over with a children's park and a swimming pool filled with water coming from the very spot where the dumping occurred, is an outrage," said Alan Mortensen, an attorney working with some of the families.

Investigators over the past years have been focusing on a 12-mile-wide circle of mostly farmland just south of Lake Erie.

Many of the diagnoses came between 2002 and 2006, leading state health authorities to declare it

a cancer cluster because the number and type of diagnoses exceeded what would be expected.

News Headline: One Step Closer to Solving Cancer Cluster Mystery | ■✕

Outlet Full Name: WJW-TV - Online

News Text: CLYDE, Ohio-- The residents of Clyde, Ohio may be one step closer to finding the cause of a cancer cluster in their small community, thanks to the recently released results of a U.S. EPA study.

"There's never a day that goes by that Alexa's not thought about," said Wendy Brown, as she remembered her 11-year-old daughter who died from brain and spinal cancer in 2009.

According to the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), 35 children have been diagnosed with various types of cancer since 1996; four have died in eastern Sandusky County. They are part of a cluster that has been under investigation for several years. A cluster is defined by an abnormally high number of cancer cases in a region without reason.

Brown is ever mindful of the promise Alexa's father, Warren, made to his daughter shortly before her death. "Warren said he promised her, practically on her death bed, that he wasn't going to stop looking 'til he found out why," she said.

That relentless effort, joined by the voices of other local families, prompted the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to test water, air and soil at 14 sites in February of this past year, including a park formerly owned by the Whirlpool Corporation. Other sites included:

Amert Lagoon Site
Bellevue City Dump
Clyde City Dump
Formulated Products Site
Golembiowski Dump Site
Green Township Dump Site
Leach Dump Site
McGrath Dump
Meggitt Landfill
Riley Township Dump
Townsend Township Dump
Whirlpool Manufacturing Site
Wickerham Drum Site

"We're here now because residents probably still had concerns about what was here," the agency's Steve Wolfe said at the time of the testing. "They remember drums being here but nobody ever looked underground."

Tipsters also recalled black sludge being dumped near the basketball court at Whirlpool Park, as well as, by a pond that provided water for the park swimming pool. It was reportedly open at the

time the dumping was underway.

"They found up to nine feet of this toxic sludge that's full of PCBs," said Alan Mortensen, an attorney hired by the families involved in the cancer cluster.

The EPA's test results from four soil samples, found PCBs that exceeded the EPA's regional screening levels for residential properties, two of the samples showed levels higher than the agency's requirements for a PCB spill cleanup.

"Doing this, a place where knowingly, kids played, I just don't see how you could do it and live with yourself," said Brown.

Dan O'Brien, Plant Leader at Whirlpool Clyde released the following statement to company employees: "Since being notified by the USEPA of their test results, Whirlpool has worked diligently and persistently with the current owner of this property, his lawyer and has even solicited the help of the USEPA to gain access to the site to conduct appropriate surveys and additional testing in partnership with the state and federal environmental agencies. However, the property owner and his lawyer have denied all of our requests for access to the site under reasonable conditions.

We are hopeful that the voices of these families will encourage the property owner and his lawyers to allow Whirlpool onto the property to begin the site characterization in coordination with state and federal authorities. We are prepared to move forward immediately with the first steps of the evaluation once granted access to the property."

Here are some of the actions taken to resolve this issue:

Whirlpool made contact with the property owner within days of receiving notification from the USEPA of their test results. Since then we have had continuous, respectful contact with he and his lawyers requesting permission to enter the property, and have been denied access to the site under reasonable conditions.

As we had communicated to the USEPA, timely access to the site would have allowed us to complete the first steps of the environmental review by mid to late September.

We have been working on an ongoing basis, and in a transparent manner, with USEPA and Ohio EPA. Both agencies have indicated their support for our working with the Ohio EPA under their Voluntary Action Program (VAP).

During our conversations with state and federal officials, and with the property owner and his attorney, we have been clear that once testing and validation were complete, we would, where appropriate, accept all responsibility and expenses for remediation of those materials found to be placed on the site during our ownership. We would complete any required cleanup consistent with practices of the day.

In August, we set up a phone line for community members to contact us if they had questions.

We have reached out to city and county officials, along with state and federal authorities.

We have cooperated fully with the USEPA on six Whirlpool-owned sites, which were found to be within compliance standards.

We continue to work to gain access to the site to conduct the studies under the Ohio EPA Voluntary Action Program:

We have asked the USEPA to intervene and compel the property owner to allow us access to the site.

We have discussed the possibility of getting a USEPA mediator assigned to help facilitate the discussions with the property owner and his lawyer so we may move forward with our environmental study.

To help speed up the process, we have proposed to the property owner and his lawyer the possibility of our repurchasing the property.

Meanwhile, it is important to understand, that we truly believe there is no current exposure risk posed by this substance. As stated in USEPA materials, PCBs are a very stable substance that does not readily migrate, and the use and disposal of PCBs was a common practice, and within the laws and standards of the 1950s and 1960s.

We continue to work toward gaining access to the site, and will continue to work with state and federal agencies to abide by the law, and address the issues on the site until they are satisfactorily resolved in the best interest of the community and its residents."

The families of Clyde hired Alan Mortensen, an attorney from Salt Lake City, Utah, to help with their search for answers as to what's behind their town's cancer cluster. Mortensen believes this latest development brings the group one step closer to solving the mystery.

"I think that we are in that this has been a wake up call," said Mortensen. He said more vigilance and testing is needed.

Wendy Brown expressed cautious optimism over the latest news and vowed to continue on until all the facts are in. "This is for Alexa and other kids too."

<http://www.13abc.com/story/20100369/us-epa-evidence-of-toxic-sludge-at-whirlpool-park>
There are new details in the Clyde Cancer Cluster.

A new report by the US Environmental Protection Agency found high levels of PCB's and toxic metals in the soil at Whirlpool Park.

Families of kids who have died from cancer are upset saying a playground was a toxic dumping area.

They've hired attorneys to independently investigate that and 14 other sites.

"I want you to focus in on that," says Warren Brown during a news conference holding up a picture of his daughter Alexa who died when she was 11 years old.

"This community has to be made safer," says Steve Keller, holding a picture of his grandson Kole who died at the age of six.

These families have been frustrated for years. The state health department started the cancer cluster investigation in 2006 and that report found no known cause for the high cancer rates.

However the families have now hired attorneys after reading the new US EPA report finding high levels of PCB's and toxic metals in the soil at Whirlpool Park.

"Maybe this is the common link," says attorney Alan Mortensen.

Whirlpool Park is now closed. It is located in Green Springs which is five miles outside of Downtown Clyde.

The park was owned by the Whirlpool Corporation.

"I went to the park from when I was 8 to 10 years old," says Wendy Brown, Alexa's mom.

"It is troubling that they would landscape a park for children, whoever put it there, using toxic sludge and inviting kids to play for several years," says Mortensen.

Whirlpool Corporation sent a letter to all employees Wednesday morning saying the company bought the park in the 1950s and sold it in 2008.

"From the time we purchased the property it was a park. It was a park when we purchased it, until we sold it," says Jeff Noel of Whirlpool Corporation. "So our records show it was a park."

The company says it has been working with the EPA since being notified of the test results. However, Noel says the current property owner has denied the company access to the site.

"Absolutely we're concerned," says Noel. "We've got over three thousand employees, we've been there over 60 years, we hope to be there another 50, 60 years."

"Nothing infuriated me more as when the state came in and said there was nothing there," says Steve Keller. "Because I've spent a lot of time, a lot of hours at the Northwest EPA in BG. I knew there was a lot there and now we know there's a lot there."

"When Alexa lay on her death bed, I told her her death would not be in vain," says Warren Brown. "We are going to get some answers."

Whirlpool says it's willing to buy back the property to do testing and resolve issues in the best interest of the community.

Nov. 14

http://www.thenews-messenger.com/article/20121114/NEWS01/121114003/Cancer-cluster-families-Playground-dump-site?odyssey=tab%7Ctopnews%7Ctext%7CFrontpage&gcheck=1&nlick_check=1

Clyde families want answers after EPA finds playground was toxic sludge site

CLYDE -- A former children's park in Green Springs served as a dumping ground for toxic, cancer-causing chemicals, a federal report shows.

And families of children who have been sickened or died in a cancer cluster surrounding Clyde weren't informed about it, attorney Alan Mortensen said during a press conference this afternoon.

The U.S. Environmental Protection agency found a 9-foot layer of black sludge dumped by the basketball court at Whirlpool Park, which was a play area for children for years. Whirlpool closed in the early 2000s and is now privately owned.

The U.S. EPA released its findings online last month but did not publicize them or inform the families, he said.

"The family members want to be involved," said Mortensen, who is one of the attorneys representing families. "This caught them off guard.

"What was even more upsetting to the family members was the fact that Whirlpool had not disclosed this...That, of course, was very upsetting to the family members."

Mortensen said he believes Whirlpool dumped on the property in the '70s and '80s.

He and the families are not saying the site is the cause of the cancer cluster, but it could be. The families want to see more testing and more research done, he said.

They hired Mortensen and partner Dustin Lance, both attorneys with Dewnup, King and Olsen of Salt Lake City, Utah, to help them get answers.

For more details and reactions of the families, read Thursday editions of The News-Messenger.

July 26-August 2

http://www.thenews-messenger.com/article/20120731/NEWS01/120731009/Clyde-cancer-cluster-remains-mysterious?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|s&nclink_check=1

Clyde cancer cluster remains mysterious

CLYDE — The cause of a childhood cancer cluster in Eastern Sandusky County remains a mystery.

Test results from soil, soil vapor and groundwater samples the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency took from 13 dump sites in the Clyde area in February showed the levels of contamination in the samples did not pose a risk to human health, said Josh Singer, U.S. EPA spokesman.

The agency does not plan any further action on those sites, he said.

U.S. EPA tests were done as part of an investigation into potential causes for the elevated frequency of childhood cancers in the area.

Since the mid-1990s, at least 35 children in a 12-mile radius in the east half of the county have been diagnosed with various types of cancer, and four have died.

“We are continuing the investigation,” Singer said.

<http://www.toledoblade.com/Medical/2012/07/28/Survey-rules-out-contamination-in-child-cancer-cases.html>

Survey rules out contamination in child cancer cases

BY MADELINE BUXTON
BLADE STAFF WRITER

CLYDE, Ohio (July 28, 2012) — After years of speculation about the potential environmental cause of a series of child cancer-cluster cases in eastern Sandusky County, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reported that 13 of 14 sites surveyed were not contaminated and that additional steps would not be pursued at those locations.

“Our investigation is continuing, but in terms of where we go from here, the good news is I’ve heard our technical people say they did not find anything at those 13 sites that is a threat to human health,” said Joshua Singer, a spokesman for the U.S. EPA.

Eastern Sandusky Report

The EPA study, which officially began in February, sought to find an environmental cause that might have led to at least 37 childhood cancer cases that occurred within a 12-mile radius of Clyde since 1996. Types of cancer that were contracted included brain and central nervous system tumors, lymphoma, and leukemia, among others.

The regional investigation included Whirlpool Corp.’s factory in Clyde and multiple dumps in the area, and involved gathering soil, air, and water samples. The 14th site, the McGrath Dump Site at 3966 County Rd. in Vickery, was not investigated because access was denied to the U.S. EPA.

Mr. Singer said ongoing investigations are focused on about 90 tips that the agency received to its hotline at 855-838-1304.

For Warren Brown, whose 11-year-old daughter, Alexa, died of cancer in 2009, the results of the study are “not too little, but they are too late.”

“I’m not surprised by their study at all,” Mr. Brown said of the EPA results. “Boots on the ground have to happen when the kids get sick. It doesn’t happen two or three years after the kids

get sick. You don't study an issue when you have 19 or 26 cases in front of you, you study the issue as soon as one or two or three cases are presented."

Mr. Brown remains adamant that there was an environmental issue that led to the cancer cluster in Sandusky County, but asserts that officials didn't act soon enough to discover the root cause.

"I will be convinced until I go to heaven and visit with Alexa that the issues that arose that caused all those children to get sick were caused by some environmental anomaly," he said.

Contact Madeline Buxton at mbuxton@theblade.com or 419-724-6368.

<http://www.woio.com/story/19173772/clyde-cancer-cluster-clue>

Clyde Cancer Cluster clue

Posted: Aug 01, 2012 7:39 PM CDT Updated: Aug 01, 2012 7:39 PM CDT

SANDUSKY COUNTY, OH (WOIO) – (Scott Taylor)

Seven kids are dead in the Clyde Cancer Cluster and now news that the EPA just found a possible clue to what's killing kids in Sandusky County.

Investigator Scott Taylor just discovered that the EPA has found PCBS in the soil of the now closed recreational park that use to be owned by Whirlpool.

PCBS have been shown to cause cancer in animals and are a probable human carcinogen, according to the Feds.

Kristine Vernier, Senior Manager, Global Public and Media Relations, Whirlpool Corporation released the following statement:

We recently received notification from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) related to environmental testing of our properties in the Clyde, Ohio area. As expected, all properties currently owned and controlled by Whirlpool Corporation have been found to be "clean" and within compliance standards. We also were notified that soil test results for an additional property, previously owned by Whirlpool Corporation, (located off of County Road 187/Whirlpool Road) showed unexpected results that will require further testing and evaluation.

We are working with the U.S. EPA in an effort to learn more about the results and to help us evaluate potential next steps.

(WOIO) - In February, the Federal EPA finally showed up in Sandusky County and took soil samples at 14 different locations in and around Clyde, Ohio.

The testing came after a request on a federal level by 19 Action News and the parents of 11-year-old Alexa Brown. She is one of seven kids who have died in the Clyde Cancer Cluster.

For the past several months, the EPA has been testing that soil to determine if they could unlock the mystery of why more than 30 kids have been diagnosed with cancer in Sandusky

County. Since 2006, the state of Ohio has tried to solve the mystery that has killed 7 children, but state EPA and health officials have come up empty.

Those Federal EPA results are in, and 19 Action News Reporter Scott Taylor is talking to EPA officials about those results starting First at Four.

Link to video: <http://www.woio.com/category/240218/video-landing-page?clipId=7548177&autostart=true>

<http://fox8.com/2012/07/26/epa-clears-13-cancer-cluster-test-sites/>

EPA Clears 13 Cancer Cluster Test Sites

Posted on: 5:08 pm, July 26, 2012, by [Lindsay Buckingham](#)

CLYDE, Ohio — A newly released report from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) found that 13 of 14 test sites in eastern Sandusky County did not pose a threat to human health.

According to EPA spokesperson Joshua Singer, the agency began [sampling the sites in February 2012, inspecting air, soil and water samples](#), where a former storage lot for chemical containers used to be. The inspection came after the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) reported that 35 children had been diagnosed with various types of cancer since 1996 and that four kids had died in eastern Sandusky County.

“U.S. EPA did not find contamination at levels that pose a threat to human health and will not take further action at those sites. EPA continues to work on the remaining site,” Singer said.

The cluster has been studied for several years, and Singer says the EPA isn’t done with its investigation.

“U.S. EPA continues to investigate possible sources of contamination in Eastern Sandusky County. The Agency received approximately 90 tips to its Eastern Sandusky County hotline and is following up on that information.”

****To read the full technical report on the EPA website, click [HERE](#).***

Call 1-855-838-1304 if you have information to report. All calls to the toll-free hotline are confidential.

– *Fox 8 News reporter Mark Zinni contributed to this report.*

<http://www.toledonewsnow.com/story/19126795/epa-study-in-search-for-cancer-cluster-cause-clears-dump-sites>

CLYDE, OH (Toledo News Now) July 26, 2012 - The United States Environmental Protection Agency found nothing to indicate dump sites are to blame for the Easter Sandusky County Childhood Cancer Cluster.

In a report released on July 11, the EPA cleared 13 of the 14 dump sites evaluated in the study, but said the 14th could not be eliminated since the property owners of McGrath Dump did not allow their testers access to the property. Officials with the EPA say they plan to follow up with McGrath, but the study leaves victims' families with more questions, not the answers they had hoped for.

Wendy and Warren Brown lost their daughter Alexa to cancer in 2008. Alexa was one of 35 people in the area diagnosed with cancer and considered part of the cluster.

The Browns say although the study was available on July 11, they just became aware of it today.

"Am I frustrated? To some degree I have to say yes. You know I thought we had developed somewhat of a good rapport with the lead investigators and communications specialist from region 5. Even an e-mail or text message or anything saying 'hey go look at the website the items are out there' would have been nice," said Warren Brown, Alexa's father.

Brown says he is also frustrated with the pace of the investigation.

"Investigations should not have to take 6 years to be completed. In this case and I've voiced it before. Everything has been too little, I shouldn't say too little, I think the investigations have been mostly thorough, so I don't want to say too little, but they've been too late," said Brown.

Feb. 15

News Headline: EPA tests sites near Ohio child cancer cluster |  

Outlet Full Name: Gazette - Online, The



News Text: EPA tests sites near Ohio child cancer cluster

CLYDE, Ohio — Environmental regulators have started testing for contamination at 14 sites in a part of rural northern Ohio where cancer has sickened dozens of children for more than a decade.

The Blade in Toledo reported the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency began taking soil samples Monday in Clyde, nearly 40 miles southeast of Toledo. Most of the testing sites are former dump sites that have been closed for decades.

Some Ohio lawmakers and parents of sick children had urged the federal government to get more involved in investigating the source of the illnesses.

The odds are against finding an answer. The state has investigated for several years but found no clear explanation. It previously conducted a variety of tests, including air and groundwater sampling and radiation checks at homes and schools.

News Headline: Feds to examine Clyde cancer cluster |  

Outlet Full Name: Newark Advocate - Online

News Text: Jed Chrestensen and Mike Blair of Weston Solutions screen soil samples Monday at the former site of Formulated Products on East Street in Clyde. / Photos by Jonathon Bird/News-Messenger

CLYDE -- Federal investigators Monday began testing 14 sites in eastern Sandusky County for possible contamination, a study spurred by a high number of childhood cancer cases in the area.

Since the mid-1990s, at least 35 children in a 12-mile radius in the east half of the county have been diagnosed with various types of cancer. Four have died.

The study may not find the root cause of the cluster, but any contamination it does uncover would still help the community, said County Administrator Warren Brown, whose 11-year daughter, Alexa, died of cancer in 2009.

"If anybody benefits, that is still part of Alexa's legacy," Brown said. "Maybe what they find will prevent other people from getting sick."

Media outlets and community leaders were invited Monday to the Formulated Products site, nestled in a residential area just east of downtown Clyde, for a demonstration of testing equipment by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency crews. The 2.5-acre parcel, where contaminated drums were removed 13 years ago, is one of the 14 properties included in the latest round of **EPA** tests.

Steve Wolfe, on-scene coordinator for the **EPA**, said the sites were identified as possible areas of contamination in the region in a 2009 study conducted by the Ohio Department of Health, Sandusky County Health Department and the Ohio **EPA** that explored possible causes of the cancer cluster. The report, released last spring, found no explanation or connecting factor in the childhood cancer cases.

"Now we are to the point where we want to collect some physical samples," Wolfe said. "All the samples will be analyzed for a wide range of contaminants."

Officials determined there was a Clyde cancer cluster after several children were diagnosed between 2002 and 2006. The cluster's area was widened to include a larger radius after more research found additional cases of cancer.

The Ohio EPA and other agencies have spent four years investigating the cluster. They took soil, air and water samples in the area, but found nothing unusual.

Brown credited the media attention surrounding the cluster and meetings he and his wife, Wendy, had with U.S. EPA officials with the federal authorities beginning their own investigation into possible contamination in the area.

"It's because we haven't taken no for an answer," he said.

Brown said the federal study should have happened a long time ago.

"It took five years to get these guys here," he said. "These folks should have been here in conjunction with the Ohio EPA five years ago."

Drums containing corrosives, oxidizers, flammable materials and waste oils were removed from the 2.5-acre parcel on 110 East St. during a 1998 U.S. EPA action. Also removed at that time were polychlorinated biphenyl capacitors, sludge and other small containers of materials.

According to the report, studies have shown PCB, contained in the capacitors, can cause both carcinogenic and non-carcinogenic health effects in humans.

After visiting each of the sites and collecting samples, further analysis will determine if any environmental remediation or any other response is warranted, Wolfe said.

He said any data uncovered by the federal agency's analysis would be shared with the state and county health departments.

Email Mark Tower at mtower@gannett.com.

News Headline: Feds to look at cancer cluster |  

Outlet Full Name: News-Herald - Online

News Text: Mike Blair of Weston Solutions inspects a sample Monday from a geoprobe, a special drilling rig used to recover soil samples, at the former site of Formulated Products on

East Street in Clyde. / Jonathon Bird/News Herald

CLYDE -- Federal investigators Monday began testing 14 sites in eastern Sandusky County for possible contamination, a study spurred by a high number of childhood cancer cases in the area.

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Email Mark Tower at mtower@gannett.com.

News Headline: U.S. EPA testing 14 sites near cancer cluster |  

Outlet Full Name: Sandusky Register - Sandusky

News Text: Clyde

U.S. EPA workers on Monday began collecting samples from one of 14 dump sites within the area of a cancer cluster that has baffled health officials for years.

The agency's investigators are searching for any chemical contamination that could be causing the cancer in children throughout the Clyde area.

The work crews are collecting ground samples, and they're also using ground-penetrating radar to search for any buried drums of chemicals. The EPA is looking for any possible hazardous substance, including metals, volatile organic compounds, semi-volatile organic compounds, polychlorinated biphenyls, pesticides and herbicides.

There are hundreds of possible compounds work crews are looking for. Results of the sampling should be announced by late spring or early summer, when there's been time to analyze the

samples in laboratories, said Steve Wolfe, the EPA's on-site coordinator.

U.S. EPA administrator Lisa Jackson, a member of President Obama's cabinet, has promised to come to Clyde to meet with families of children who have battled cancer. A date hasn't been set and likely won't be until test results are in, Wolfe said.

To hear more from investigators studying the Clyde cancer cluster, pick up Tuesday's Register.

The U.S. EPA is testing 14 dump sites that were identified in a 2009 Ohio study:

Feb. 13-14

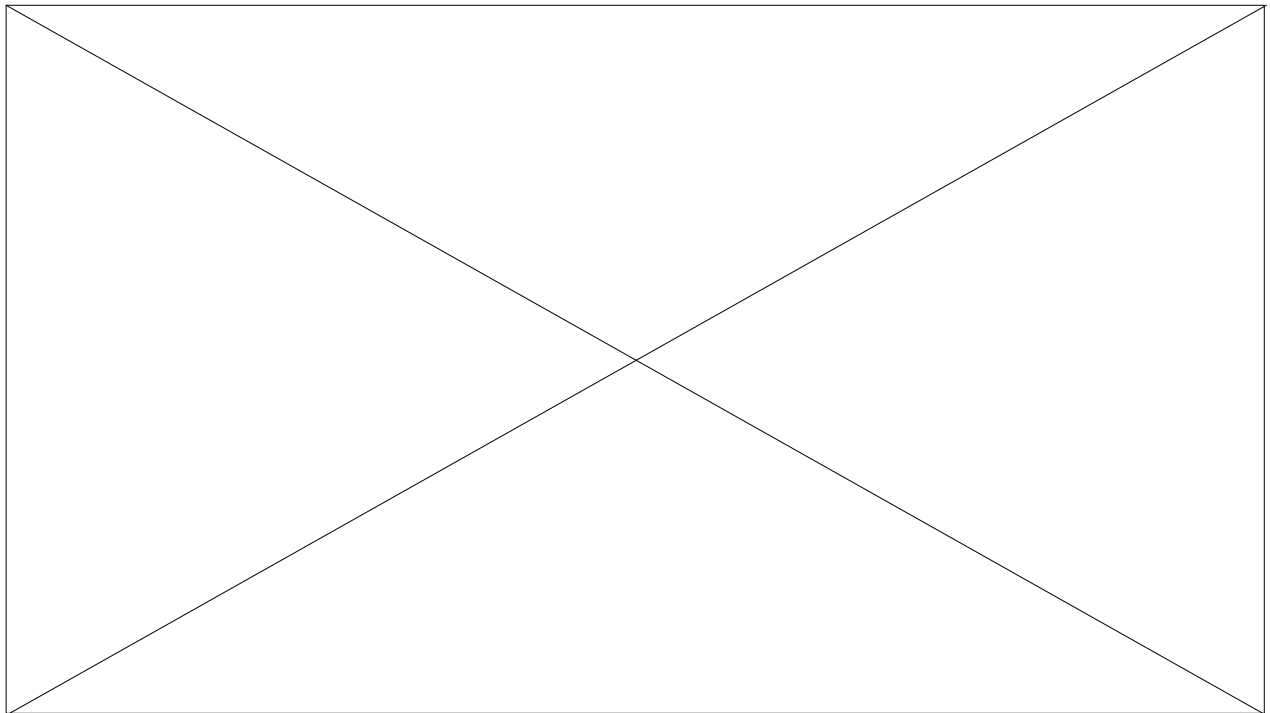
WOIO TV Cleveland

<http://www.woio.com/story/16922288/epa>

Clyde Cancer Cluster: EPA to collect samples for possible contamination

Posted: Feb 13, 2012 9:59 AM CST Updated: Feb 13, 2012 1:02 PM CST

Scott Taylor



New developments on a deadly cancer cluster in Northwest Ohio. Six children have died, and many others are sick.

On Monday, the U.S. EPA will collect soil, air and water samples at sites in Eastern Sandusky County looking for possible contamination.

The EPA involvement comes after 19 Action News Reporter Scott Taylor demanded a federal investigation after the State of Ohio could not find a cause since 2006.

U.S. EPA will also be conducting "geophysical" surveys, which use magnetic and radar sensing to show possible burial places for waste. U.S. EPA is focusing on 14 sites identified by Ohio state agencies.

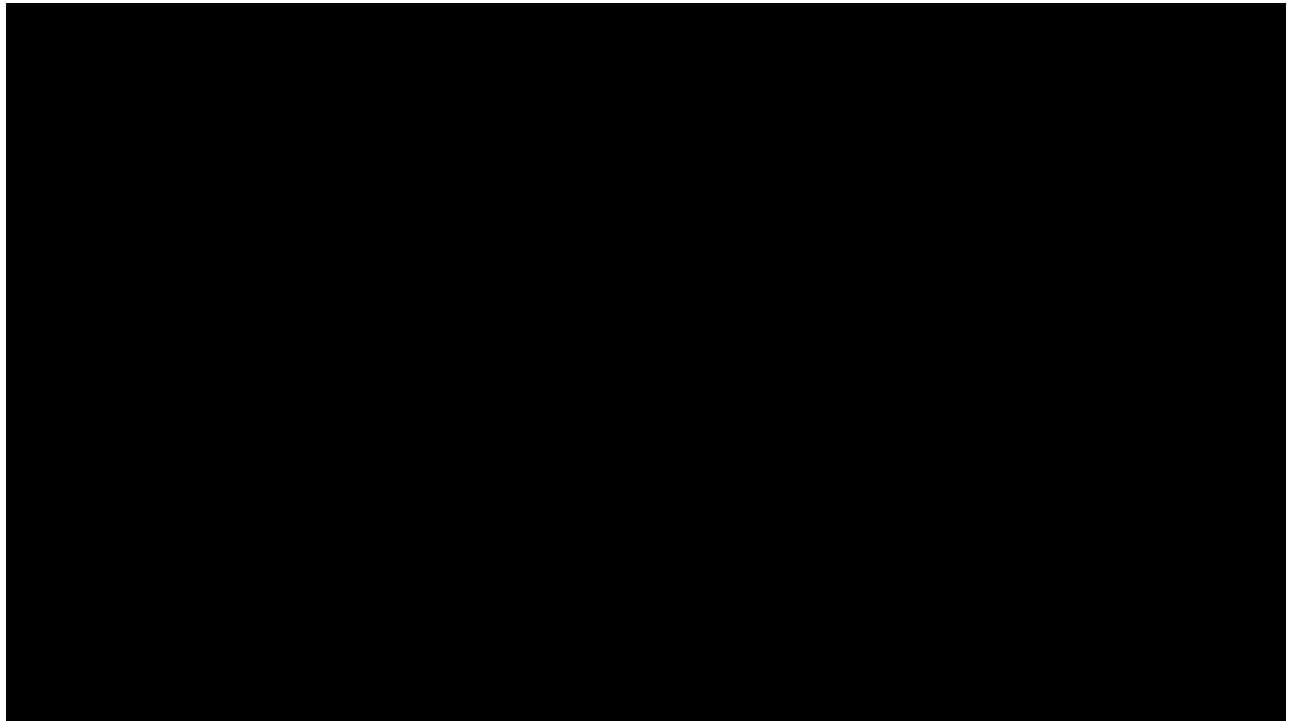
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Also of Interest

Fox 8 Cleveland

EPA Investigates Possible Cancer Cluster in Clyde

5:11 pm, February 13, 2012, by [Mark Zinni](#)



CLYDE, Ohio – For the first time, federal health officials are in northern Ohio taking environmental samples as they investigate a possible cancer cluster.

On Monday, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) began collecting air, soil and water samples at the site of a former storage lot for chemical containers in Clyde.

“We’re here now because residents probably still had concerns about what was here. They remember drums being here but nobody ever looked underground,” said Steve Wolfe from the EPA.

According to the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), 35 children have been diagnosed with various types of cancer since 1996 and four kids have died in eastern Sandusky County.

A cluster is when you have an abnormally high number of cancer cases in a region without reason.

This particular cluster has been under investigation for several years and a recent report found no obvious cause or connection.

“In a two-year period, when approximately eight or nine kids are diagnosed in a very small area, something is wrong,” said Wendy Brown.

Her daughter, Alexa, was diagnosed with a type of brain and spinal cord cancer when she was 8-years-old and she died three years later.

Wendy and her husband have been dedicated to finding a possible cause.

“He promised her in the weeks before she died that – maybe she knew, she knew she wasn’t going to live – but he promised her that we’re going to do this so that other kids don’t have to go through what she went through,” said Wendy.

For the next few weeks, 15 EPA investigators will use magnetic and radar technology to try to pinpoint a potential problem.

The results may not be released until this summer.

According to the EPA, the initial investigation will focus on 14 sites identified in a 2009 study prepared by Ohio state agencies. The sites include:

- Amert Lagoon Site
- Bellevue City Dump
- Clyde City Dump
- Formulated Products Site
- Golembiowski Dump Site
- Green Township Dump Site
- Leach Dump Site

- McGrath Dump
- Meggitt Landfill
- Riley Township Dump
- Townsend Township Dump
- Whirlpool Manufacturing Site
- Wickerham Drum Site
- York Township Dump

The EPA continues to operate a hotline to collect tips about other potentially contaminated sites.

Call 1-855-838-1304 if you have information to report.

All calls to the toll-free hotline are confidential.

EPA starts testing Ohio sites, searching for what sickened kids in mysterious cancer cluster

- THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
- First Posted: February 14, 2012 - 6:18 am
- Last Updated: February 14, 2012 - 6:18 am

• [AAA](#)



CLYDE, Ohio — Environmental regulators have started testing for contamination at 14 sites in a part of rural northern Ohio where cancer has sickened dozens of children for more than a decade.

The Blade in Toledo (<http://bit.ly/za8xnB>) reports the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency began taking soil samples Monday in Clyde, nearly 40 miles southeast of Toledo. Most of the testing sites are former dump sites that have been closed for decades.

Some Ohio lawmakers and parents of sick children had urged the federal government to get more involved in investigating the source of the illnesses.

The odds are against finding an answer. The state has investigated for several years but found no clear explanation. It previously conducted a variety of tests, including air and groundwater sampling and radiation checks at homes and schools.

Information from: The Blade, [toledoblade.com/](http://www.toledoblade.com/)><http://www.toledoblade.com/>

Toledo Blade

U.S. EPA seeks cause of child cancer cluster

Soil, water, air samples to be taken from 14 sites

BY TONY COOK

BLADE STAFF WRITER

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Richard Tosatto, from Buckeye Probe LLC, uses a geoprobe to take core samples from the ground near the 100 block of East St. in Clyde, Ohio.

THE BLADE/AMY E. VOIGT [Enlarge](#) | [Photo Reprints](#)

CLYDE, Ohio — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency began studying 14 sites for possible contamination Monday in what has become a years-long quest for the source of a childhood cancer cluster in this eastern Sandusky

County community.

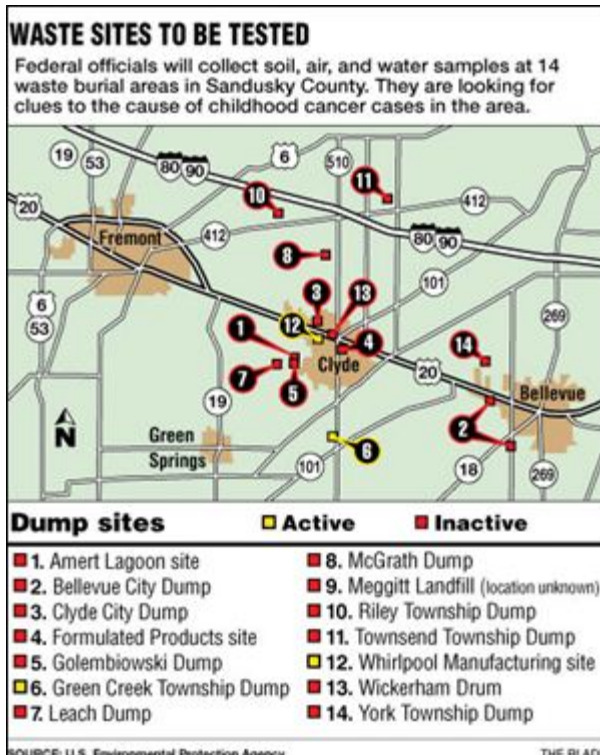
About a dozen EPA personnel and contractors surveyed a vacant lot and began taking soil samples Monday, representing the federal government's first involvement in the effort to determine the cause of at least 37 childhood cancer cases within a 12-mile radius of Clyde. Four children have died.

The vacant lot once housed a company called Formulated Products. The EPA removed hundreds of drums of chemicals from the site in the late 1990s. It was believed nothing was buried on the site, but with the outbreak of brain and central nervous system tumors, lymphoma, leukemia, and other forms of cancer among children in the area since 1996, federal authorities are now investigating the site, along with 13 others.

Most of the sites are former dumps that closed before the 1970s, prior to the era of modern solid waste management and regulation.

Four of the sites are owned by Whirlpool, the washing machine manufacturer and by far the area's largest employer, with more than 3,000 workers. The EPA also will look at the Clyde City Dump, where residential and industrial waste was deposited until 1969.

Steve Wolfe, on-scene coordinator for the EPA, said the agency and its contractors will collect underground soil, water, and air samples from the 14 sites over the next three weeks to identify possible waste burial areas. Those samples will be tested and evaluated. He said the public can expect results in late spring or early summer.



[Enlarge](#)

"We just don't know what's going to be there," Mr. Wolfe said.

Concerns about the 14 sites were identified in a 2009 study prepared by the Ohio Department of Health and Ohio EPA. The state agencies didn't take samples from those sites because there was no clear route through which the children would have come in contact with them, Ohio EPA spokesman Dina Pierce said.

The state ultimately concluded that an environmental problem had likely triggered the cancer cases, but could not determine the causes.

The U.S. EPA is essentially picking up where the state left off. Although the initial study will focus on 14 sites, Mr. Wolfe said other sites may be examined based on additional information.

The U.S. EPA has set up a confidential hot line, 1-855-838-1304, to gather tips about potentially contaminated sites. The agency has received about 50 calls and emails.

"We follow up on every lead," Mr. Wolfe said.

Area residents have expressed gratitude for the agency's involvement, he said.

Sandusky County Administrator Warren Brown, who lost his 11-year-old daughter Alexa to cancer the summer of 2009, said the U.S. EPA study can produce only good results.

"I think it's a great approach. If they find nothing, that's great. If they find something, that's also great, because if they find something and it gets fixed, maybe it precludes some other child or some other person from becoming ill," he said.

Still, he's frustrated about the slow speed of the response. It's been six years since the Sandusky County health department first began to investigate reports of multiple cases of childhood cancer in the Clyde area.

"My position is it shouldn't take five or six years for everybody to get on the ground and start doing what needs to be done," Mr. Brown said.

He acknowledged that the families affected by the cancer cluster may never know its cause. The source of cancer clusters is notoriously difficult for public health officials to prove.

U.S. EPA officials explained their plans to Mr. Brown and other area families during a meeting Monday at the Clyde Public Library. Local health officials and a representative from the office of U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D., Toledo) were also on hand. Warren Brown and the senator are not related.

"State and local health departments have worked diligently to find solutions, but have been unable to determine any causes thus far," the senator said in a statement Monday. "I applaud the EPA for their commitment to finding answers for the Clyde-area families."

Last year, Sen. Brown wrote to the U.S. EPA and Center for Disease Control requesting their agencies provide increased federal assistance to Ohio agencies investigating the high rate of childhood cancer in Clyde.

Contact Tony Cook at: tcook@theblade.com or 419-724-6065.

Fox Toledo

EPA testing waste sites in Clyde

Trying to find answers about cancer cluster

Updated: Monday, 13 Feb 2012, 7:40 PM EST
Published : Monday, 13 Feb 2012, 7:40 PM EST

- [by Allison Brown, FOX Toledo News weekend anchor](#)

CLYDE, Ohio (WUPW) - After years of research and no answers, the possibility of contaminated dump sites has now brought the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to Clyde.

The EPA is testing soil, air, and water at 14 waste sites in Sandusky County.

All of this comes after the cancer cluster led to the deaths of four kids.

At least 37 kids within a 12 mile circle of Clyde were diagnosed with some form of cancer since 1996.

"We don't go in there hoping to find something, we don't go in there thinking it's going to be there," said Steve Wolfe, who works with the EPA.

Last August, the EPA met with Clyde families affected by the childhood cancer cluster, and after extensive research done, it was determined that the sites should be checked out.

"They will get the answers they want, you know, we'll see if anything is here, and if we have to look further, we'll look further," said Wolfe.

On Monday, the EPA was using magnetic and radar sensing at the Old Formulated Products site on East St. in Clyde to see if something is underground that shouldn't be.

"That is called a geophysical survey, basically it sends magnetic signals down into the ground, interprets them, it does in about 20 feet, and using it he can tell if there's any burial area, difference in the ground, drums, tanks, etc," said Wolfe.

Some people believe the cancer cluster research is too little, too late.

"If they find nothing, that's wonderful, but my guess is that they are going to find something," said Warren Brown, who lost his daughter Alexa to cancer in 2009.

"I appreciate the boots on the ground, but this is something that should have happened when the ODH and Ohio EPA started their investigations," said Brown.

The EPA will be testing the dump sites for the next couple of weeks, but officials told FOX Toledo results will not be available until late Spring or early Summer.

Fremont News-Messenger Feds to examine Clyde cancer cluster

8:27 AM, Feb. 14, 2012 |

[Comments](#)



Purchase Image

Jed Chrestensen and Mike Blair of Weston Solutions screen soil samples Monday at the former site of Formulated Products on East Street in Clyde. / Photos by Jonathon Bird/News-Messenger



Written by

Mark Tower

Staff writer

CLYDE -- Federal investigators Monday began testing 14 sites in eastern Sandusky County for possible contamination, a study spurred by a high number of childhood cancer cases in the area.

Since the mid-1990s, at least 35 children in a 12-mile radius in the east half of the county have been diagnosed with various types of cancer. Four have died.

The study may not find the root cause of the cluster, but any contamination it does uncover would still help the community, said County Administrator Warren Brown, whose 11-year daughter, Alexa, died of cancer in 2009.

"If anybody benefits, that is still part of Alexa's legacy," Brown said. "Maybe what they find will prevent other people from getting sick."

Media outlets and community leaders were invited Monday to the Formulated Products site, nestled in a residential area just east of downtown Clyde, for a demonstration of testing equipment by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency crews. The 2.5-acre parcel, where contaminated drums were removed 13 years ago, is one of the 14 properties included in the latest round of EPA tests.

Steve Wolfe, on-scene coordinator for the EPA, said the sites were identified as possible areas of contamination in the region in a 2009 study conducted by the Ohio Department of Health, Sandusky County Health Department and the Ohio EPA that explored possible causes of the cancer cluster. The report, released last spring, found no explanation or connecting factor in the childhood cancer cases.

"Now we are to the point where we want to collect some physical samples," Wolfe said. "All the samples will be analyzed for a wide range of contaminants."

Officials determined there was a Clyde cancer cluster after several children were diagnosed between 2002 and 2006. The cluster's area was widened to include a larger radius after more research found additional cases of cancer.

The Ohio EPA and other agencies have spent four years investigating the cluster. They took soil, air and water samples in the area, but found nothing unusual.

Brown credited the media attention surrounding the cluster and meetings he and his wife, Wendy, had with U.S. EPA officials with the federal authorities beginning their own investigation into possible contamination in the area.

"It's because we haven't taken no for an answer," he said

Brown said the federal study should have happened a long time ago.

"It took five years to get these guys here," he said. "These folks should have been here in conjunction with the Ohio EPA five years ago."

Drums containing corrosives, oxidizers, flammable materials and waste oils were removed from the 2.5-acre parcel on 110 East St. during a 1998 U.S. EPA action. Also removed at that time were polychlorinated biphenyl capacitors, sludge and other small containers of materials.

According to the report, studies have shown PCB, contained in the capacitors, can cause both carcinogenic and non-carcinogenic health effects in humans.

After visiting each of the sites and collecting samples, further analysis will determine if any environmental remediation or any other response is warranted, Wolfe said.

He said any data uncovered by the federal agency's analysis would be shared with the state and county health departments.

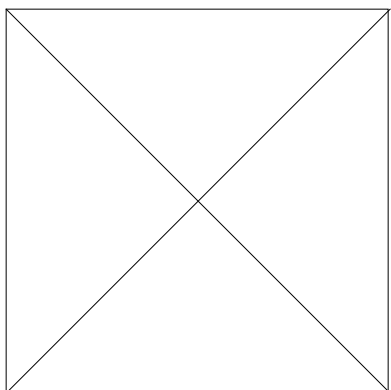
Email Mark Tower at mtower@gannett.com.

Technology utilized in contamination search

8:15 AM, Feb. 14, 2012 |

Comments

-



Mike Blair inspects a sample Monday from a geoprobe, a special drilling rig used to recover soil samples.



Written by
Mark Tower
Staff writer

- Filed Under

- [News](#)
- [Local News](#)

UNDER EXAMINATION

EPA is examining the following sites for possible contamination:

- » Amert Lagoon Site
- » Bellevue City Dump
- » Clyde City Dump
- » Formulated Products Site
- » Golembowski Dump
- » *Green Township Dump*
- » *Leach Dump Site*
- » *McGrath Dump*
- » *Meggitt Landfill*
- » *Riley Township Dump*
- » *Townsend Township Dump*
- » *Whirlpool Manufacturing Site*
- » *Wickerham Drum Site*
- » *York Township Dump*

www.ingdirect.com

CLYDE -- Soil, water and gas samples will be collected from 14 sites within a seven-mile radius of the city over the next few weeks in an U.S. EPA investigation into possible contamination.

"We're here to see what is there," said Steve Wolfe, on-scene coordinator for the EPA. "We just don't know what is going to be there."

Crews will shoot radio waves into the ground at the sites to determine if any waste, like buried drums, are still beneath the surface, Wolfe said.

A specialized drilling rig called a geoprobe will be used to collect soil and water samples up to 20 feet beneath the ground, which will be analyzed for possible contamination in four sections, he said. Equipment at the sites scans for radiation and tests for the presence of volatile organic compounds.

The samples are then sent to a laboratory, Wolfe said, for more analysis.

Those tests can detect the presence of metals, volatile organic compounds, semi-volatile organic compounds, PCBs, pesticides and herbicides.

He said they would wrap up work at the East Street site Monday and collection at all 14 sites would take two to three weeks.

Any information about what they find, Wolfe said, will come much later. Analysis of the data will not produce any conclusions about contamination found at the sites until late spring or early summer, he said.

The 14 sites identified in the 2009 report are all within a seven-mile radius of Clyde and include a Whirlpool Manufacturing site on the west side of the city and three other sites owned by Whirlpool. Wolfe said those three properties are the Amert Lagoon site, the Golembowski Dump and the Leach Dump, all southwest of Clyde.

Vickery Environmental, a waste-disposal facility near Vickery and commonly listed by area residents as a possible cause of the cancer cluster, is not on the list of sites being tested. Wolfe said the facility, which now operates four deep-injection wells to dispose of industrial waste liquids, was not included because it is regulated by different agencies.

Only one property owner has not yet given permission for the testing, the owner of the Meggitt Landfill. Woolfe said the agency has not yet been able to make contact with the owner.

The EPA set up a confidential hotline for people to call and report potentially contaminated sites or concerns about waste disposal practices in Sandusky County. The agencies received about 50 calls or emails, Wolfe said.

Those tips are still being evaluated, he said, to determine if any sites need to be added to the list. The hotline is 855-838-1304.

WNWO TV NW Ohio

U.S. EPA investigating

Clyde cancer cluster

by [Angi Gonzalez](#)

Posted: 02.13.2012 at 11:26 PM

Read more: [Local, Health, News, Consumer, Community, Clyde, Cancer, Cancer Cluster, Child, Sandusky County, Ohio, Department of Health, Epa, Environmental Protection Agency](#)

EPA officials begin testing at one of the 14 sites they will be checking for contamination. / Tim Wening



SANDUSKY COUNTY -- Officials with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency arrived in Clyde, on Monday, [to continue their investigation of a child cancer cluster](#).

"We did a lot of historical research, [looking at] aerial photographs...looking for burial areas, old state files just to see what we can find. Now we're to the point we want to collect some physical samples," EPA on-scene coordinator Steve Wolfe said.

Using a variety of different tools, the EPA will be visiting 14 sites during the next few weeks to gather soil, air and water samples.

According to Wolfe, the locations were identified to the

EPA by the Ohio EPA and Ohio Department of health following their own investigations.

Warren Brown says it was the 2006 cancer-diagnosis of his daughter Alexa that compelled state authorities to begin looking into a potential cancer cluster.

"The amount of cancer cases was statistically significant and further study needed to be done," Brown said.

Despite numerous investigations, however, no one has been able to definitively identify what's caused [around 3 dozen area children to develop cancer](#).

While Brown is thankful that the EPA has finally arrived to investigate he's skeptical of what they'll find.

"If they find nothing that's wonderful, but my guess is and my gut tells me they are going to find something ...something that needs to be removed or remediated," Brown said.

EPA officials say they hope to have their findings by the end of spring or early summer.

WTOL TV Toledo

EPA begins to study Clyde Cancer Cluster

Posted: Feb 13, 2012 5:19 PM CST Updated: Feb 13, 2012 5:19 PM CST

Posted by Erin Kelly - email

CLYDE, OH (WTOL) - The U.S. EPA has started its investigation into the Eastern Sandusky Cancer Cluster, after years of requests from victims' families.

Investigators started collecting environmental samples Monday at the former Formulated Products site on East Street in a Clyde neighborhood. It is the first of 14 sites to be investigated.

"I think it is pretty important. They'll get the answers they want. We'll see if anything is here. If we have to look further, we'll look further," said Steve Wolfe, the on-scene coordinator with the U.S. EPA.

The majority of the locations to be tested are former dump sites. According to investigators, many of the sites haven't been used since the 1960s. Many now have houses on them. Investigators will collect water, soil and air samples looking for possible contamination.

"We're here to see what's there. We don't go there hoping to find something, thinking something is there. We just don't know what it is going to be," said Wolfe.

Crews will conduct "geophysical" surveys, using magnetic and radar sensing to detect possible underground burial sites, 20 feet below ground. A geo-probe then collects samples at different depths.

The testing sites were identified by the Ohio EPA and the Ohio Department of Health, after they researched the Eastern Sandusky Cancer Cluster.

"We're going further. They didn't look at these 14 sites, they just said they may be of concern. So we're looking at it from an environmental standpoint. We're going at depth, not just surface," said Wolfe.

For families of the cancer cluster, the testing has been a long time coming. According to the Ohio EPA, at least 35 children have been diagnosed with cancer in eastern Sandusky County since 1996.

Warren Brown lost his 11 year old daughter, Alexa, after a three year battle with cancer. He wrote to the EPA years ago, requesting federal investigators look into possible environmental contamination.

"I think it is wonderful we're going to get test results to determine whether or not there are things, subsurface, that need to be dealt with... It may preclude someone else from getting sick," said Warren Brown as he watched investigators collect the first samples.

Still, Brown and his wife, Wendy, said the testing should have been done years ago.

"Whatever window we had to determine what caused the cancer cluster, I believe and have believed, is gone, is closed. This is just another step in the process to be sure that there is nothing that could be a health hazard to other people," said Warren Brown.

"I think it is important to do this, because Clyde has so many dumps around it. Is this going to tell us the cause of the cancer cluster? I don't think so," said Wendy Brown.

The Browns said they will continue to fight for funding for childhood cancer research, regardless of the outcome of the EPA testing.

Wolfe said collecting the physical samples would likely take between two and three weeks. Samples will then be tested, with results possible late spring or early summer. At that point, Wolfe said, further testing or action could be taken.

The EPA continues to operate a confidential hotline dedicated residents with information or concerns about possible dump sites in the Clyde area. Anyone with information can call 855-838-1304.

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Jan. 6-21, 2012

Compiled Friday, Jan. 6

EPA returns to Sandusky County over cancer cluster (WTOL 11 – Toledo, OH)

<http://www.wtol.com/story/16461893/epa-returns-to-sandusky-county>

Posted: Jan 06, 2012 9:38 AM CST Updated: Jan 06, 2012 10:03 AM CST

By Lisa Strawbridge - email

CLYDE, OH (WTOL) - The Environmental Protection Agency will return to Sandusky County the week of January 9 to continue testing for the cancer cluster.

They are working to determine the cause of the cancer cases. Investigators will be collecting soil, air and water samples in eastern Sandusky County.

A hotline will also be activated for residents to call if they have information about potentially contaminated sites in the area. The phone number for that hotline will be released by the EPA when they arrive.

Click here to see a statement from the EPA.

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EPA Hotline for Clyde Cancer Cluster (Fox 8 – Cleveland, OH)

5:59 p.m. EST, January 5, 2012

<http://www.fox8.com/news/wjw-epa-clyde-cancer-cluster-hotline-link,0,7425624.story>

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released the following statement Thursday regarding the cancer cluster investigation in Clyde, Ohio:

"U.S. EPA is investigating possible contamination at sites in eastern Sandusky County. During 2012, EPA personnel and contractors will be doing assessment work such as collecting soil, air and water samples.

The investigation is one of several actions being taken to follow up on concerns raised when EPA met in August 2011 with Clyde-area families affected by childhood cancer.

EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson plans to come to Clyde to discuss the results of this investigation when it is complete.

Next week, EPA will be activating a hotline at 855-838-1304 for residents to call if they have information about potentially contaminated sites or concerns about the safety of waste disposal practices in eastern Sandusky County. All calls will be kept confidential."

Cancer Cluster: EPA to test over a dozen sites in Sandusky County (19 Action News – Cleveland, OH)

****Note: TV Clip Aired, Video available at link.**

<http://www.woio.com/story/16451479/cancer-cluster>

SANDUSKY COUNTY, OH (WOIO) -

New developments in a cancer cluster in Northwest Ohio.

Six children have died, and many others are sick.

19 Action News Reporter Scott Taylor has learned the Federal EPA has identified 14 sites in Sandusky County to test to see if any could be the cause of the deadly Clyde Cancer Cluster.

EPA involvement comes after 19 Action News demanded a federal investigation after the State of Ohio could not find a cause since 2006.

The EPA is meeting with parents of sick kids to keep them informed.

Reporter Scott Taylor will have much more on 19 Action News at Noon.

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Compiled Tuesday, Jan. 10

News Headline: 14 Sandusky Co. sites to be tested in cancer study |  

Outlet Full Name: Toledo Blade – Online (appeared online Jan. 9 – sent in Jan. 10 Chicago Daily Clips)

News Text: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency this year plans to do testing at 14 sites in eastern Sandusky County -- including Whirlpool Corp.'s factory in Clyde and multiple dumps -- to investigate a cluster of child-cancer cases.

EPA personnel and contractors will collect soil, air, and water samples. Once an investigation is done, EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson plans to go to Clyde to discuss results.

The initial investigation will focus on 14 sites identified by Ohio state agencies in a 2009 study. Among other sites to be tested is the 28-acre Clyde Dump.

The EPA also will reexamine environmental data previously collected in the area. The Ohio Department of Health and Ohio EPA have studied the area for years but have been unable to identify the cancer cluster's cause.

The EPA has a hot line at 855-838-1304 for residents to call with information about potentially contaminated sites or concerns about waste disposal practices in eastern Sandusky County. All calls will be confidential.

Since 1996, about 35 children in a 12-mile-wide circle have been diagnosed with brain and central nervous system tumors, lymphoma, leukemia, and other forms of cancer, according to studies.

<http://www.northwestohio.com/news/story.aspx?id=705427>

EPA releases Clyde cancer cluster hotline

by **Kevin Kistner**

Posted: 01.09.2012 at 5:43 PM

CLYDE -- Federal scientists are in Sandusky County this week trying to solve the cancer cluster mystery in Clyde.

Several kids have come down with cancer in that area and authorities don't know why.

The Environmental Protection Agency is going to be collecting soil, air and water samples in eastern sandusky county.

The EPA has set up a hotline for residents to call if they have any information about possible cancer causers.

That number is 855-838-1304.

Compiled Wednesday, Jan. 11

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/45945357>

EPA to test sites in Ohio child cancer cluster

By JOHN SEEWER

 Associated Press

updated 1/10/2012 6:32:58 PM ET

[TOLEDO, Ohio](#) — Environmental regulators will begin testing the air and water near dump sites in rural northern Ohio where cancer has sickened dozens of children for more than a decade. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency decided to take action after officials last year met with families who have had children diagnosed with cancer in a 12-mile swath of mostly farmland just south of Lake Erie. At least 36 children have been diagnosed, and four have died since 1996.

The odds are against finding an answer. State investigators have spent more than three years testing wells and public drinking water, sampling groundwater and air near factories, and checking homes, schools and industries for radiation.

"We weren't making any connections," Robert Indian, the Ohio Health Department's chief of comprehensive cancer control, said Tuesday.

The EPA plans to test soil, air and water at 14 dump and manufacturing sites in Sandusky County, which is about 40 miles east of Toledo. The agency also set up a hotline this week to take tips on other places to check.

Some Ohio lawmakers and parents of sick children have been urging the federal government to get more involved in the investigation.

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown said the EPA's involvement was an important step. He had asked in February for the EPA and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to take a role in getting to the bottom of the cancer cluster.

"We must do everything in our power to figure out why so many children have been diagnosed with cancer in this area," Brown said Tuesday.

Pinpointing the cause of a cancer cluster rarely happens. During the 1960s and '70s, the CDC investigated 108 cancer clusters around the U.S., but it found no definite causes for any of them.

The cancers that have been diagnosed in the Ohio cancer cluster include brain tumors, leukemia and lymphoma.

Eight children were diagnosed with cancer in and near the town of Clyde from 2002 to 2006. That's nearly four times the number that state health experts figure is normal.

The diagnoses peaked in 2006, when nine children were told they had cancer.

Just one case was reported last year to the local health department.


Some health and environmental regulators have speculated the cause was environmental and may have come and gone — maybe a chemical from a factory or a dump that polluted the air or water.

Investigators need to make sure that don't raise false hopes among the parents and people who live in the county, Indian said.

"We always have to be sensitive to that," he said. "That's why we stopped when we did. I think we exhausted all of our avenues."

The most recent study released last year came after state health investigators spent months talking with the children and their families about where they live and work and what they might have been exposed to before they became sick. It didn't turn up any clues, partly because less than two-thirds of their families agreed to take part.

From Vocus Chicago Daily Clips (Jan. 11)

News Headline: EPA opening investigation into what's making children sick in mysterious Ohio cancer cluster |  

Outlet Full Name: Chicago Tribune - Online

News Text: 5:26 p.m. CST, January 10, 2012

TOLEDO, Ohio (AP) — The Environmental Protection Agency is taking another look at what's behind mysterious cancers in rural northern Ohio that have sickened dozens of children for more than a decade.

Environmental investigators plan to test soil, air and water samples at dump and manufacturing sites just south of Lake Erie, where at least 35 children have been diagnosed and four have died from cancer since the mid-1990s.

State regulators already have done extensive testing at many of those sites without finding any answers.

The EPA says it decided to take action after officials met with families from Sandusky County who have had children diagnosed with cancer. They've been urging the federal government to spend more time investigating the cancer cluster.

Still, experts say the odds are against finding a cause.

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News Headline: EPA to test sites in child cancer cluster |  

Outlet Full Name: News-Herald - Online

News Text: TOLEDO, Ohio (AP) — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is taking another look at what's behind mysterious cancers in rural northern Ohio that have sickened dozens of children for more than a decade.



Environmental investigators plan to test soil, air and water samples at dump and manufacturing sites just south of Lake Erie where at least 35 children have been diagnosed and four have died from cancer since the mid-1990s.

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News Headline: EPA to test sites in northern Ohio cancer cluster |  

Outlet Full Name: Bucyrus Telegraph-Forum - Online

News Text: EPA to test sites in northern Ohio cancer cluster

2:21 PM, Jan. 10, 2012 |

TOLEDO, Ohio (AP) — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is taking another look at what's behind mysterious cancers in rural northern Ohio that have sickened dozens of children for more than a decade.

Environmental investigators plan to test soil, air and water samples at dump and manufacturing sites just south of Lake Erie where at least 35 children have been diagnosed and four have died from cancer since the mid-1990s.



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Still, experts say the odds are against finding a cause.

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News Headline: EPA to test sites in Ohio child cancer cluster |  

Outlet Full Name: Coshocton Tribune - Online

News Text: EPA to test sites in Ohio child cancer cluster

6:34 PM, Jan. 10, 2012 |

TOLEDO, Ohio (WTW) - Environmental regulators will begin testing the air and water near dump sites in rural northern Ohio where cancer has sickened dozens of children for more than a decade.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency decided to take action after officials last year met with families who have had children diagnosed with cancer in a 12-mile swath of mostly farmland just south of Lake Erie. At least 36 children have been diagnosed, and four have died since 1996.

The odds are against finding an answer. State investigators have spent more than three years testing wells and public drinking water, sampling groundwater and air near factories, and checking homes, schools and industries for radiation.

"We weren't making any connections," Robert Indian, the Ohio Health Department's chief of comprehensive cancer control, said Tuesday.

The EPA plans to test soil, air and water at 14 dump and manufacturing sites in Sandusky County, which is about 40 miles east of Toledo. The agency also set up a hotline this week to take tips on other places to check.

Some Ohio lawmakers and parents of sick children have been urging the federal government to get more involved in the investigation.

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown said the EPA's involvement was an important step. He had asked in February for the EPA and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to take a role in getting to the bottom of the cancer cluster.

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Some health and environmental regulators have speculated the cause was environmental and may have come and gone — maybe a chemical from a factory or a dump that polluted the air or water.



Investigators need to make sure that don't raise false hopes among the parents and people who live in the county, Indian said.

"We always have to be sensitive to that," he said. "That's why we stopped when we did. I think we exhausted all of our avenues."

The most recent study released last year came after state health investigators spent months talking with the children and their families about where they live and work and what they might have been exposed to before they became sick. It didn't turn up any clues, partly because less than two-thirds of their families agreed to take part.

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Jan. 12 clips

News Headline: EPA testing area for contamination |  

Outlet Full Name: News-Herald - Online

News Text: CLYDE -- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency plans to investigate sites in eastern Sandusky County for possible contamination in another effort to find out what might have caused a cancer cluster there.

This year, EPA workers will collect soil, air and water samples at 14 sites, including industrial sites and dumps.

The **EPA** initiated the investigation after representatives met with families who were affected by the Eastern Sandusky County Cancer Cluster last year, according to a statement from U.S. **EPA**.

Agency spokesman Josh Singer said the agency would not comment further.

Since the mid-1990s, at least 35 children in a 12-mile radius have been diagnosed with various types cancer. Four have died.

The investigation will include a confidential hotline where people can report potential dump sites and unsafe dumping practices in the area. The **EPA** also plans to review information gathered during past investigations.

Warren and Wendy Brown, whose daughter, 11-year-old Alexa, died of cancer in 2009, met with two **EPA** coordinators last week, Warren Brown said in an email.

"We found them very engaging, and they appear as though they are concerned and dedicated," he said.

Warren Brown, who also is the Sandusky County administrator, was not available for further comment Tuesday evening.

The **EPA** investigation comes after the state and local health departments issued a report last spring that found nothing explaining what caused the cluster or anything connecting the cases.

The Ohio **EPA** and other agencies have spent four years investigating the cluster. They took soil, air and water samples in the area but found nothing unusual.

Officials determined there was a Clyde cancer cluster after several children were diagnosed between 2002 and 2006. The cluster's area was widened to include a larger radius after more research found additional cases of cancer.

Email Kristina Smith Horn at mkhorn@gannett.com.

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News Headline: **EPA** to test sites in child cancer cluster |  

Outlet Full Name: Newark Advocate - Online

News Text: TOLEDO, Ohio (AP) — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is taking another look at what's behind mysterious cancers in rural northern Ohio that have sickened dozens of children for more than a decade.



Environmental investigators plan to test soil, air and water samples at dump and manufacturing sites just south of Lake Erie where at least 35 children have been diagnosed and four have died from cancer since the mid-1990s.

State regulators already have done extensive testing at many of those sites without finding any answers.

The **EPA** says it decided to take action after officials met with families from Sandusky County who have had children diagnosed with cancer. They've been urging the federal government to spend more time investigating the cancer cluster.

Still, experts say the odds are against finding a cause.

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News Headline: **EPA** to test sites in Ohio child cancer cluster |  

Outlet Full Name: Star-Beacon - Online

News Text: National News

January 11, 2012

TOLEDO, Ohio -

Environmental regulators will begin testing the air and water near dump sites in rural northern Ohio where cancer has sickened dozens of children for more than a decade.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency decided to take action after officials last year met with families who have had children diagnosed with cancer in a 12-mile swath of mostly farmland just south of Lake Erie. At least 36 children have been diagnosed, and four have died since 1996.

The odds are against finding an answer. State investigators have spent more than three years testing wells and public drinking water, sampling groundwater and air near factories, and checking homes, schools and industries for radiation.


"We weren't making any connections," Robert Indian, the Ohio Health Department's chief of comprehensive cancer control, said Tuesday.

The **EPA** plans to test soil, air and water at 14 dump and manufacturing sites in Sandusky County, which is about 40 miles east of Toledo. The agency also set up a hotline this week to take tips on other places to check.

Some Ohio lawmakers and parents of sick children have been urging the federal government to get more involved in the investigation.

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown said the EPA's involvement was an important step. He had asked in February for the EPA and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to take a role in getting to the bottom of the cancer cluster.

"We must do everything in our power to figure out why so many children have been diagnosed with cancer in this area," Brown said Tuesday.

Pinpointing the cause of a cancer cluster rarely happens. During the 1960s and the CDC investigated 108 cancer clusters around the U.S., but it found no definite causes for any of them. 

The cancers that have been diagnosed in the Ohio cancer cluster include brain tumors, leukemia and lymphoma.

Eight children were diagnosed with cancer in and near the town of Clyde from 2002 to 2006. That's nearly four times the number that state health experts figure is normal.

The diagnoses peaked in 2006, when nine children were told they had cancer.

Just one case was reported last year to the local health department.

Some health and environmental regulators have speculated the cause was environmental and may have come and gone - maybe a chemical from a factory or a dump that polluted the air or water.

Investigators need to make sure that don't raise false hopes among the parents and people who live in the county, Indian said.

"We always have to be sensitive to that," he said. "That's why we stopped when we did. I think we exhausted all of our avenues."

The most recent study released last year came after state health investigators spent months talking with the children and their families about where they live and work and what they might have been exposed to before they became sick. It didn't turn up any clues, partly because less than two-thirds of their families agreed to take part.

Jan. 21

News Headline: Wider cancer study |  

Outlet Full Name: Toledo Blade - Online

News Text: Investigation of the childhood cancer cluster in Sandusky County has entered a promising new phase. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is examining 14 landfills within seven miles of the city of Clyde.

The federal agency's decision, in an election year, to pick up where the Ohio EPA and the Ohio Department of Health left off may raise questions about political motives. But northwest Ohio residents -- and especially the 35 Clyde-area families who have been traumatized by cancer diagnoses among their children -- still need answers.

Cancer clusters are hard to prove. State officials saw enough evidence in Clyde to conclude that an environmental problem had triggered the cancer cases, but could not identify the cause.

The U.S. EPA wants to look more closely at area landfills, especially the 28-acre Clyde dump. That landfill began accepting waste in the 1930s, long before the modern era of disposal. It polluted Raccoon Creek and nearby groundwater for decades after it closed in 1969.

The federal agency's field work will include tests on soil samples drawn from 60-foot probes stuck into the landfills. Previous tests didn't occur at that depth and in those spots.

Sandusky County Administrator Warren Brown, whose 11-year-old daughter died of cancer in 2009, asks why there wasn't a more cohesive effort among local, state, and federal officials from the start. He and his wife, Wendy, have become driving forces behind the investigation, making multiple trips to Washington and participating in countless meetings with government officials.

Such a cancer cluster, especially when it involves children, deserves the kind of emergency response a disaster would get. But Mr. Brown told The Blade: "It appears to me everybody waits for everyone else to do their little thing."

Mr. Brown concedes that other parts of the country face similar cancer investigations. Locally, the U.S. EPA has established a confidential hot line, 855-838-1304, for residents to call with information about the 14 landfill sites.

In the end, the answers may continue to elude the experts. For now, though, the U.S. EPA's involvement offers hope to the Browns and other Clyde-area families.

October 2011

New hope for Clyde

Blade, The (Toledo, OH) - Monday, October 24, 2011

Author: BLADE

FAMILIES devastated by the mysterious **cluster** of child- **cancer** cases in the **Clyde** area have a new glimmer of hope. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says it will take a hard look at what the State of Ohio's pollution detectives have failed to uncover.

U.S. EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson said this month that her agency may even take over the years-long environmental investigation that has stumped the Ohio Department of Health and the Ohio EPA. The two state agencies have said the **cancer cluster** has an obvious environmental trigger. But they effectively closed the books on the case last May, saying they felt they had exhausted all possibilities to identify the **cluster** 's cause.

Ms. Jackson responded to an inquiry by Sandusky County Administrator Warren Brown, whose 11-year-old daughter died of **cancer** in 2009. She said the agency's Great Lakes regional administrator, Susan Hedman, has "assigned investigators to review the history of industrial facilities and dump sites near **Clyde** ."

Ms. Jackson told Mr. Brown she plans to come to **Clyde** to meet with him and others once her agency has determined "whether federal action is warranted." She said federal EPA investigators were specifically interested in the **Clyde Dump** and other area landfills.

According to Ohio EPA records, the 28-acre **Clyde Dump** was an unregulated facility that began taking waste in the 1930s, long before the modern era of waste disposal. It polluted Raccoon Creek and nearby groundwater for decades after it closed in 1969 with chemicals from uncontrolled leaching.

"It's unfortunate children have to die before our government pays attention," Mr. Brown says. But the new developments may at least offer enough cause to reopen the investigation.

A new analysis concludes that the Ohio Department of Health's protocol for screening for **cancer** risks in **Clyde** may have been too generous. Its author, Stephen Lester, is science director of the Center for Health, Environment & Justice, founded and led by environmentalist Lois Gibbs. Ms. Gibbs' activism led to the Love Canal evacuation in the 1970s, which inspired the creation of the nation's Superfund program for cleaning up toxic waste sites.

Families of **cancer** -stricken children don't need false hope. But they deserve to have every reasonable angle explored, even if that means auditing records of front-line state investigators. The U.S. EPA is right to re-examine the evidence.

Caption: Jackson

August 2011

<http://www.19actionnews.com/story/15297338/clyde-cancer-cluster>

Soil sample test results in Clyde cancer cluster investigation

Posted: Aug 19, 2011 10:53 AM CDT Updated: Aug 19, 2011 2:51 PM CDT

(WOIO) - New developments in a story making national headlines.

A cancer cluster in Northwest Ohio. Six children have died, and many others are sick. Federal officials are finally reaching out to the families.

Now, results from more state testing to try to figure out what's killing these innocent children.

19 Action News Reporter Scott Taylor asked the federal EPA to come to Sandusky County and meet with parents of all the sick kids. They came on Thursday night, but didn't present a single new idea on how to solve the deadly mystery.

Parents spent two and half hours with the feds in Fremont. 19 Action News cameras were not allowed in, but parents came out of the meeting and voiced their displeasure. Many parents said they have been hearing the same song and dance for years now.

All of them are glad, however, to see the feds are actually in Sandusky County listening to their concerns for the very first time.

"It's good to see the national EPA involved, I like that part," said Steve Keller, who lost a grandson to cancer. "I thank your station for what you have done. I thought that was good. Pointed out a few things that maybe have fallen on deaf ears that I think they took as good input."

Results from the latest soil testing by the Ohio EPA were given to parents Thursday night. It was released to the public Friday. It doesn't pinpoint a cause and did not test soil at old dumping sites or major companies in and around Clyde.

<http://www.19actionnews.com/story/15285294/epa-administrator-and-clyde-cancer-cluster-parents-to-finally-meet>

EPA Administrator, Clyde Cancer Cluster parents to finally meet

Posted: Aug 17, 2011 3:13 PM CDT Updated: Aug 18, 2011 5:24 AM CDT



Alexa Brown

- [Local NewsMore>>](#)
- [WMMS radio personality charged with driving intoxicated](#)
- [Teen killed on east side identified](#)
- [A casino Christmas!](#)
- [Wanted fugitive turns himself in](#)
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CLYDE, OH (WOIO) -

Six children have died in Sandusky County and more are sick.

Now, for the first time in the Clyde Cancer Cluster, 19 Action News has helped put federal officials and parents in the same room.

19 Action News Investigator Scott Taylor confronted the Federal EPA Administrator to get the attention of Uncle Sam. Now, officials are not only listening, they are keeping their promise to meet with parents of these sick children.

The Center for Disease Control is the lead federal agency consulting with the state of Ohio on the Clyde Cancer Cluster which has killed half a dozen children including Alexa Brown, age 11.

The CDC may be the lead agency, but they have never set foot in Sandusky County nor has the Federal EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson, who told 19 Action News she had no idea of what was happening in Clyde, Ohio back in June.

Pretty odd considering that U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown sent a letter to Jackson in February spelling it all out and asking for help.

Lisa Jackson promised she would meet with parents, and finally she will.

After some nagging from 19 Action News Investigator Scott Taylor, Jackson promised she would meet with parents.

Senator Brown was a bit stunned at what he learned from 19 Action News and Jackson's investigations about Clyde, OH. "That's a big agency and she has a lot of issues but she should be briefed when she comes to Cleveland. Clyde is not really the area but close enough about this. I am going to double back with her and make sure she is focused on this" says Senator Brown.

Thursday the Federal EPA will be in Sandusky County to meet with parents. Lisa Jackson is the very first federal department head to really listen to the cries of help from Sandusky County after a little nudging from 19 Action News.

How can you help? [Click HERE to sign a federal petition](#) asking for help. Make sure to forward the link on to your friends on Facebook and Twitter.

June 17, 2011

Ohio's Federal EPA Director questioned about the Clyde Cancer Cluster

Posted: Jun 17, 2011 2:01 PM CDT Updated: Jun 17, 2011 5:40 PM CDT

NORTH OLMSTED, OH (WOIO) -

For a year now, Ohio has been consulting with the feds on all the testing they have done in Clyde, Ohio.

Friday, 19 Action News Investigative Reporter Scott Taylor discovered EPA Director Lisa Jackson has never even heard of the "cancer cluster" in Sandusky County that has already killed six kids.

The Clyde Cancer Cluster is a 14 mile stretch in Sandusky County where six kids have died and 30 other children fell ill.

The state of Ohio says they can't figure it out, even after five years of testing.

Parents and 19 Action News have been asking since 2010 to bring in federal investigators to help solve the mystery and here's why they might not be showing up...

Federal EPA Director Lisa Jackson has no idea what's happening in Clyde, Ohio.

19 Action News caught up with Jackson as she toured MOEN World Headquarters in North Olmsted. MOEN is the 2010 EPA Watersense partner of the year.

Jackson sadly seemed to have no idea of the Clyde Cancer Cluster.

Later the EPA sent us this statement:

"The Administrator learned of the situation in Clyde today while in Ohio. She is concerned about the details as they were explained to her and directed senior regional staff to follow up with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the lead federal agency helping to assess the situation in Clyde. Administrator Jackson also made a commitment to meet with the residents of Clyde, and will fulfill that commitment." - EPA Spokeswoman, Adora Andy

Jackson wasn't aware? The EPA and Jackson got a letter from U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown in February detailing the cluster in Clyde and asking Jackson for help. The EPA tells Scott Taylor that doesn't change a thing but Jackson will meet with parents of the kids. YOU GOT TO LOVE THAT!

19 Action News will keep you updated on how this investigation shakes out.

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<http://www.toledoblade.com/local/2011/05/16/Clyde-child-cancer-cluster-likely-to-remain-a-mystery-2.html>

Clyde child-cancer cluster likely to remain a mystery

BY TOM HENRY
BLADE STAFF WRITER

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Robert Karwowski, director of environmental health and safety for Whirlpool, says the firm's release of volatile organic compounds into the air from its Clyde factory is declining. The firm says it has nothing to hide in the cancer studies. *THE BLADE/JEREMY WADSWORTH* [Enlarge](#) | [Buy This Photo](#)

CLYDE, Ohio — Barring a major development, parents of eastern Sandusky County's cancer-stricken children will soon get the news they feared: The state of Ohio may close the books on its investigation into the mysterious cancer cluster there, unable to explain why so many kids got sick or died.

“I think we’ve done everything we could do,” said Robert Indian, head of the Ohio Department of Health’s comprehensive cancer-control program and the top state official from that agency who probes evidence of cancer epidemics.

By the end of May, two new reports will be released.

One will be an analysis of additional data gathered after the investigation was expanded beyond Clyde in the fall of 2009 to include Fremont and the northern tip of Seneca County.

The other will be based on soil samples the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency collected from the Clyde area this spring.

The data were turned over April 14 for review by Bob Frey, an environmental health toxicologist for the state of Ohio who is a colleague of Mr. Indian.

Although Mr. Indian would not provide specifics about either report, he indicated there were no breakthroughs.

“We haven’t found a smoking gun yet,” he said.

The probe was expanded to a broader geographic area after officials realized the number of unusually high cancer cases went farther than Clyde and nearby Green Springs Township.

Cancer is becoming more common in adults, but is extremely rare — with causes even harder to pinpoint — in children.

Once the study group was expanded from its original 19 families to 35, officials began gathering information about the additional people to look for commonalities.

They apparently found none. Families live in different areas, their children go to different schools, and they get their drinking water from two or three different sources. Nothing was tying together data enough to lead investigators down a single exposure pathway, let alone point fingers at a source of pollution.

‘Brutally honest’

“We were brutally honest with people from the beginning. We told them we may never find the cause,” Mr. Indian said. “The track record across the country is you rarely find the cause of something like this. It gets horribly complex.”

Dave Hisey and Warren Brown, fathers of cancer-stricken children involved in the study, said they look forward to reading the upcoming reports — but resigned themselves to the belief a long time ago that the state would come up empty-handed.

“I guess it’s kind of what I expected,” said Mr. Hisey, whose 12-year-old son Tanner has endured multiple rounds of chemotherapy and is scheduled to keep receiving an intravenous

solution of the anti-cancer drugs monthly until January.

“We had hoped for answers, but I don’t know if anybody [realistically] expected any,” Mr. Hisey, a Clyde supermarket manager, said. “It’s something different every day. Some days you’re mad, some days you’re sad. Other days, you’re skeptical.”

He said he will invariably wonder what the agencies missed, what stone could have been overturned.

“It’s frustrating, but it’s kind of what we expected,” Mr. Hisey said.

Mr. Brown, the Sandusky County administrator, lost his daughter Alexa to cancer in the summer of 2009 when she was 11.

He said the fight has moved on to federal legislation and increased funding from Washington aimed at unraveling the mysteries of childhood cancer nationwide.

“It shouldn’t have taken [the original study group of] 19 children, four of whom are now in heaven,” Mr. Brown said. “Children don’t get cancer as a normal course. Their hands are tied because there aren’t enough resources pointed in the right direction.”

Mr. Brown and his wife, Wendy, have made multiple trips to Washington to lobby federal officials for more support.

Those who have lent a sympathetic ear include U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D., Ohio) and U.S. Rep. Bob Latta (R., Bowling Green).

Last week, Mr. Brown called upon National Institutes of Health Director Francis S. Collins to ramp up investigation of pediatric cancers while Mr. Collins testified before a U.S. Senate Appropriations subcommittee.

“With advancements in modern medicine, no child deserves to have to fight for his or her life because of pediatric cancer. And no family should be left wondering if the community they live in is making their children sick,” Senator Brown said.

Emissions records

Although state health and environmental officials have said repeatedly they have no evidence that ties the unusually high incidence of cancer to any single business, Whirlpool Corp. recently approached The Blade with records showing its emissions being well within permitted levels.

The company said it had nothing to hide.

With 3,400 employees, Clyde’s Whirlpool plant is by far the city’s largest employer. It is the world’s largest manufacturer of washing machines, producing more than 20,000 a year.

Jeff Noel, a Whirlpool spokesman, acknowledged that because of its size, the facility is an easy target for innuendo, speculation, half-truths, and rumors.

Mr. Noel said the company wants a “fair shake” and an understanding of key points, such as an average release of 250 tons of volatile organic compounds into the air in recent years.

It is allowed by permit to discharge up to 460 tons a year.

Pollution decline

Robert J. Karwowski, Whirlpool environmental, health and safety director, said those classes of chemical releases have been on the decline with the company’s conversion to powder paints instead of spray paints.

Powder paints cling to metal with electro-magnetic force and are baked on the steel, resulting in far fewer air emissions than in the past, he said.

Last year’s releases of volatile organic compounds were down to 181 tons, Mr. Karwowski said.

Whirlpool dug up 621 tons of contaminated soil near the edge of its property during a major expansion in 1999, Mr. Noel said.

The company believes that soil was already polluted when Whirlpool acquired the land from the former Clyde Porcelain Steel in 1952.

Ohio EPA spokesman Dina Pierce and Mr. Indian of the state health department said there is no evidence that Clyde-area children ever came in contact with that soil, which is behind a security fence.

“There is no evidence of a completed pathway of exposure between Whirlpool and these folks,” Mr. Indian said.

During a tour of its facility last week, Mr. Karwowski explained how Whirlpool’s liquid waste is treated on site.

After solids are removed from water, the treated water goes to Clyde’s wastewater treatment plant across U.S. 20 for additional treatment.

Only that water that meets U.S. EPA requirements for publicly owned treatment plants is sent there, though, Mr. Karwowski said.

Whirlpool processes 250,000 gallons of wastewater a day, a fourth of Clyde’s total, he said.

The Ohio EPA’s investigation of the Clyde area includes a year’s worth of air sampling, extensive stream sampling, and record-checks of each source of drinking water, as well as an analysis of past air discharges.

Nothing jumped out.

Same goes for radiation testing state officials performed.

Air quality

“The air in Clyde is actually better than Toledo, Cleveland, and other parts of Ohio,” Ms. Pierce said.

“The contaminant levels we’re seeing are well within the health standards,” Ms. Pierce said

She said the Ohio EPA is “done with anything we’ve been asked to do by the Ohio Department of Health.”

Saddened father

Warren Brown is getting older. He said death is a natural process of aging.

What gnaws at him isn’t that elderly people are allowed to live.

It’s that he believes society’s values have become misplaced, possibly a result of considerable lobbying adults do for senior citizens while largely overlooking the need for more research into how and why kids get cancer.

“Old people are allowed to die. Kids are not,” Mr. Brown fumed. “You can quote me on that.”

Mr. Brown said the issue “boils down to a prioritization of resources.”

He said he believes society’s values have become too skewed — and that until that message resonates with more people, there will be more children — such as his daughter Alexa — dying long before their time.

He said he is pushing federal officials to pass legislation not only for more funding, but also for helping experts begin searching for clues before waiting until it’s too late.

Now, it’s a bureaucratic Catch-22. Agencies can’t devote a lot of resources to an area until enough people get cancer to make that study area statistically relevant.

Officials need that justification to begin their probes.

“It takes too ... long to develop a cancer cluster,” Mr. Brown said, “and by the time the cluster develops, you’re two or three years down the road and whatever caused that cancer may be gone.”

In Clyde’s case, it “took too long to put feet on the ground and eyes on the problem,” he said.

Contact Tom Henry at: thenry@theblade.com, or 419-724-6079.

April 2011

Disease clusters : CDC or EPA?

Plain Dealer, The (Cleveland, OH) - Monday, April 4, 2011

Author: The Plain Dealer

Riding to the public's rescue with a new federal program that solves mysteries, holds scoundrels to account and saves lives is the stuff of politicians' dreams.

Hence a Senate bill that would give the Environmental Protection Agency authority to study and remedy disease **clusters**, like the odd concentrations of multiple sclerosis in Wellington or childhood **cancers** in **Clyde**.

It's tempting to say, go ahead. Residents of places with disease **clusters** want to know why those **clusters** exist. Logic tells them something in their surroundings is heightening their risk.

But Congress should take this one slowly and carefully. And from appearances so far, it will, since the House has no companion bill to the Senate's and since high-ranking critics are casting doubt on whether the EPA would do a better job than the Centers for Disease Control, which now investigates disease **clusters**.

That is a fair question, and should this proposal reach the hearings stage, that question will need to be thoroughly explored.

If Congress is dissatisfied with the CDC, it has the responsibility to ask pointed questions and demand a better effort.

But for a Congress struggling to put together a budget amid talk of potentially catastrophic debt and dire predictions of government shutdowns, duplication of federal efforts is going to be a hard sell. As well it should be.

In addition, the notion of getting the EPA involved will have a tough time getting past Republicans who are grumbling about an agency whose reins the Obama administration already has loosened. State and local officials, meanwhile, will be concerned about the potential for new and burdensome mandates.

In the unlikely event that this idea, co-sponsored by Ohio Democratic Sen. Sherrod Brown, can even get a hearing in the Republican-controlled House, it's supporters are going to have a difficult case to make.

March 2011

Mystery of ' cluster diseases' prompts action by senators

Plain Dealer, The (Cleveland, OH) - Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Author: Stephen Koff, Plain Dealer Bureau Chief

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

The following published correction appeared on April 1, 2011:

A story in Wednesday's Metro section about disease **clusters** misidentified U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer, a Democrat from California, as a Republican.

Washington – It's still not known why the town of Wellington, Ohio, had more than three times the number of multiple sclerosis cases you would expect.

Was it because of a former foundry in the Lorain County community, or emissions or materials from another factory, or could genetics, diet or something else hold a piece of the puzzle? Researchers have had a hard time pinpointing links between the cases, first reported two decades ago, partly because MS is a complex disease whose causes aren't fully known, said James Boddy, Lorain County director of environmental health.

Now several U.S. senators are pushing for a federal law that would bring more scientific and environmental enforcement toward solving the riddle when a single disease afflicts an unusually high number of people in a single area. This might make a difference around **Clyde**, too, another northern Ohio community affected by a high prevalence of a disease – in this case childhood **cancer** – according to a co-sponsor of the legislation, Ohio Democratic Sen. Sherrod Brown. **Clyde** and the surrounding area of Sandusky County have reported 35 cases of childhood **cancer**, according to the Ohio Department of Health.

" **Cancer clusters**, like the one in **Clyde**, have caused enormous suffering and heartbreak in communities across our country," Brown said. "We need to do more to find out why so many young lives have been affected by **cancer** in these **cluster** areas."

The attempt to change federal law to better understand disease **clusters** gained the support of a well-known environmental whistleblower, Erin Brockovich.

Brockovich spoke Tuesday to a hearing of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. Brockovich, who became a household name after actress Julia Roberts portrayed her in the 2000 movie "Erin Brockovich," said that people in more than 534 communities across the country have come to her looking for help.

"There are simply too many **cancers** in this country, and not enough answers," Brockovich said.

(SEE CORRECTION NOTE)

Lawmakers from both parties say they, too, want to know what causes these **clusters**. Yet the

legislation, sponsored by Sens. Barbara Boxer, a California Republican, and Mike Crapo, an Idaho Republican, is likely to move slowly. There is no House companion bill.

More importantly, the proposed government solutions show potential for breaking down along liberal-conservative lines. Environmental groups like the Natural Resources Defense Council, which issued a report Tuesday on dozens of identified or potential disease **clusters** nationwide, including five in Ohio, say toxic chemicals are at least partly to blame and must be better regulated and tested.

But some Republicans on the environment committee say it could be counterproductive and possibly harmful to companies and communities to draw conclusions based on suspicions when scientific proof is lacking.

One committee witness, former government economist and risk analyst Richard Belzer, said that he is concerned that "well-meaning efforts to identify and respond to bona fide disease **clusters** caused by environmental factors may unwittingly backfire."

The bill's goal is so broad – to protect pregnant women, infants, children and other individuals who have been or could be harmed – that it could inevitably lead to over-regulation by the Environmental Protection Agency, Belzer said.

An agency within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or CDC, now oversees investigations of disease **clusters**, in coordination with state and county health departments. That's as it should be, said Sen. James Inhofe of Oklahoma, the top Republican on the environment committee, adding in a statement, "and I think we should think twice" before turning over the authority to a regulatory agency "subject as it is to political pressure" and prone "to issue rules and mandates."

The Natural Resources Defense Council cited five **cluster** sites in Ohio: **Clyde**, with a high incidence of childhood **cancer**; Wellington, with an unusually high rate of MS; Marysville, where eight boys or young men were diagnosed with leukemia between 1992 and 2001; Marion, where a high school on the site of a former Army depot and munitions factory was blamed for leukemia and esophageal **cancer**, and Middletown, where a number of people had been diagnosed with a type of brain **cancer** since 2004.

Robert Indian, chief of comprehensive **cancer** control for the Ohio Department of Health, said in a telephone interview that the cause of the Wellington **cluster** remains unsolved; the **Clyde cluster** has been studied and conclusions are now under review by authorities including the CDC, and the Marysville **cluster** is under review by the Union County Health Department.

In Marion, carcinogens were found in an old athletic field and the high school has been moved. As for Middletown, the 42 **cancer** cases over 11 years were not significantly higher than the norm of 38.3 in the same population, statistically speaking, Indian said.

February 2011

U.S. senator joins cal for answers on cancer ; Children fall ill in eastern Sandusky County

Blade, The (Toledo, OH) - Thursday, February 24, 2011

Author: TOM HENRY/BLADE STAFF WRITER

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D., Ohio) yesterday joined the chorus of public officials clamoring for answers to a mysterious **cancer cluster** that has been killing children in eastern Sandusky County.

Originally thought to be confined to the **Clyde**, Ohio, vicinity, the Ohio Department of Health determined in the fall of 2009 that the victims encompass a wider geographic area. Though now referred to as the eastern Sandusky County **cancer cluster**, those who are part of the study live as far north as Lake Erie's Sandusky Bay and south into Seneca County.

Since 1996, at least 37 children within a 12-mile wide circle have been diagnosed with brain and central nervous system tumors, lymphoma, leukemia, and other forms of **cancer**, Mr. Brown said.

Four have died.

Mr. Browns' staff said in a prepared statement that the senator has asked for the state of Ohio to get more money for the probe from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The federal money would be used to help the Ohio EPA, the Ohio Department of Health, and the Sandusky County Health Department step up their probes.

Officials remained stumped on the cause, despite nearly a decade of research. Last fall, the results of a yearlong study showed no connection between common radiation sources and the **cancer cluster**.

The Ohio Department of Health said last night it found nothing out of kilter after an intensive study of homes, schools, and the environment at large in the Fremont- **Clyde** -Green Springs-Bellevue area. It also ruled out FirstEnergy Corp.'s Davis-Besse nuclear plant as a possible source, saying it found no evidence of radioactive material leaving the Ottawa County site.

No lingering problems were detected from NASA's former Plum Brook nuclear reactor near Sandusky, which had a leak of radioactive particles into the creek in 1968, or with northern Ohio facilities associated with World War II-era activities during the Manhattan Project, the code name for the nation's atomic bomb research.

Screenings for abnormal air or water pollution have turned up negative. But Robert Indian, Ohio's chief **cancer** epidemiologist in his role as chief of the state health department's comprehensive **cancer** -control program, has said he remains convinced an environmental trigger has caused the unusually high **cancer** rate.

2010

Ohio child cancers confound parents, investigators

Associated Press: Fremont Metro Area (OH) - Thursday, December 30, 2010

^By JOHN SEEWER= ^Associated Press=

Every time his kids cough, Dave Hisey's mind starts to race. Is it **cancer** ? Is it coming back?

His oldest daughter, diagnosed with leukemia nearly five years ago when she was 13, is in remission. His 12-year-old son has another year of chemotherapy for a different type of leukemia. And his 9-year-old daughter is scared she'll be next.

Hisey is not alone in fearing the worst. Just about every mom and dad in this rural northern Ohio town gets nervous whenever their children get a sinus infection or a stomachache lingers. It's hard not to panic since mysterious **cancers** have sickened dozens of area children in recent years.

Since 1996, 35 children have been diagnosed - and three have died - of brain tumors, leukemia, lymphoma, and other forms of **cancer** - all within a 12-mile wide circle that includes two small towns and farmland just south of Lake Erie. With many of the diagnoses coming between 2002 and 2006, state health authorities declared it a **cancer cluster** , saying the number and type of diagnoses exceed what would be expected statistically for so small a population over that time.

"All you think about is what happened to these kids," said Donna Hisey, 43, the mother whose family has been devastated by **cancer** . "Is it gone? Or is it still here? What is it?!"

After three years of exhaustive investigation, no cause is known. Investigators have tested wells and public drinking water, sampled groundwater and air near factories and checked homes, schools and industries for radiation.

They also set up a network of air monitors across eastern Sandusky County, finding cleaner air than in most places around Ohio, the health department said.

Nothing unusual was detected. Not even a hint.

"From the very beginning, we've said the vast majority of childhood **cancer** causes aren't known," said Robert Indian, the state health department's chief of comprehensive **cancer** control. He'll soon release yet another investigative report.

Without any answers as to what's attacking their children, parents are left to question whether living within a known **cancer cluster** area is endangering their kids. Perhaps surprisingly, only a handful have moved away.

"It's in the back of everybody's mind," said Scott Mahler, who has two healthy young sons. "Are you going to risk your children's lives by living here?"

Eight children were diagnosed with **cancer** in and near **Clyde** between 2002-2006, nearly four times the number that state health experts figure is normal.

Ohio health investigators converged on the town of just 6,000 people halfway between Cleveland and Toledo and home to the Whirlpool Corp.'s largest washing machine factory.

What they found was worse than anyone suspected. The **cancers** affecting victims age 19 and younger included neighboring townships and much of the nearby town of Fremont.

One in five of the **cancer** cases were related to the brain or central nervous system, matching national rates, according to the American **Cancer** Society.

The diagnoses peaked in 2006, when nine children were told they, too, had **cancer** . Since then, there have been four new cases. The most recent came in the spring this year, when a 7-year-old girl was diagnosed with rhabdomyosarcoma, a rare **cancer** of the body's connective tissues.

At first, investigators focused just on **Clyde** , where social calendars revolve around school, sports and church. Most families have been here for generations. It's the kind of place where teens can't wait to leave - only to find they can't wait to come back to start a family.

Seeing their children afflicted by unexplained illnesses has strengthened the bond among parents and neighbors instead of scaring them away.

"Even if it would've happened to my family, I can't imagine where else I would go to get the support I needed," said Melanie Overmyer, an English and journalism teacher at **Clyde** High School.

"People in neighboring towns say 'I can't believe you still live there,'" said the mother of two. "You can't pick up your life and move every time there's something that scares you."

Enrollment numbers at area schools haven't dropped and real estate agents say they haven't encountered anyone who doesn't want to look for homes in the area or is desperate to get out.

" **Clyde** is small enough that we would really know if that was happening," said City Manager Paul Fiser.

Ohio health and environmental regulators have speculated the cause was environmental and may have come and gone - maybe a chemical from a factory or a dump that polluted the air or water.

Air and water samples have not revealed any concerns around the Whirlpool plant or the Vickery Environmental waste site just outside town, where hazardous chemicals are injected into rock a half-mile below ground.

And in September, investigators said they found no radiation from homes, schools, or industries to link to the illnesses, ruling out the Davis-Besse nuclear plant, about 20 miles from **Clyde** , and NASA's former nuclear reactor near Sandusky as a possible source.

Doctors also have been vigilant, making sure they're not missing any signs or symptoms in young patients. And parents are more likely to bring their kids in for checkups instead of waiting for an illness to go away.

"You still have to treat common things first," said Dr. Daniel Herring, who has a family practice in **Clyde** .

"But it's definitely one of the things we worry about more."

What's stumped investigators is the lack of any common threads among the children - all of them don't live in the same neighborhood, go to the same school or drink from the same water. They don't all have the same type of **cancer** or even parents who work at the same factory.

State health officials have spent recent months asking the sick children and their families dozens of questions about their homes and health histories, hoping to find a link. A report due soon will reveal whether they found any connections among all or some of the children, Indian said.

Some parents think it's likely that investigators will never identify a cause.

In a way, it's not a surprise.

Pinpointing the cause of a **cancer cluster** rarely - if ever _ happens.

During the 1960s and '70s, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention investigated 108 **cancer clusters** around the United States, most of them childhood leukemia. But they found no definite causes for any of them.

The CDC has since allowed states to take the lead investigating almost all suspected **clusters** while still offering some oversight, as the federal agency is doing in Ohio.

The outbreak around **Clyde** is only 50 miles north of another **cluster** that Ohio health officials spent four years investigating. Beginning in the late 1990s, nine former students from River Valley High School in Marion were diagnosed with leukemia.

Tests found toxic chemicals in schoolyard soil and students were relocated to new buildings miles away. Investigators never definitively linked the **cancers** to the old school site, a former World War II Army depot where wastes and solvents were dumped and burned.

The nation's most intensive investigation ever of a **cancer cluster** began nine years ago in western Nevada and remains inconclusive. Hundreds of state and federal experts have spent millions investigating the leukemia that sickened 17 children and killed three between 1997 and 2004.

Some parents of **Clyde** area's sick children question whether the state's inquiry has been thorough enough. They point out that there's been no soil testing or requests for experts from

CDC to join the investigation.

"Why haven't they brought all minds to the table?" said Warren Brown, whose 11-year-old daughter, Alexa, died of brain **cancer** in August 2009. "Why not throw everything at it?"

Investigators insist they've ignored nothing. Soil testing wouldn't reveal any answers, they said, because the sick children come from a widespread area and all would have needed to come in contact with contaminated dirt.

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency Director Christopher Korleski said the state has consulted with federal health officials throughout the investigation and that they've signed off on the steps Ohio has taken.

The investigation is his top priority.

"It is disappointing and frustrating to not know," said Korleski.

Brown wishes there were somebody to blame.

He's been careful not to point fingers and doesn't want the town to suffer. But he also said he wouldn't hold back if something here was the cause.

"I'd be yelling at the top of my lungs to leave town," he said. "I can't do that."

Brandy Kreider, a mother of five children, said she and her husband spent an agonizing week and sleepless nights wondering if they were making a mistake before buying a new home in town two years ago. In the end, leaving didn't feel right.

"Those things don't want to make us retreat," she said. "They bring us together."

The Hiseys faced the same question almost five years ago when daughter Tyler Smith, who's now 17, was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia.

They put their house up for sale even though it had everything they wanted: ponds for fishing, a woods for hunting and plenty of space. They're now glad it didn't sell.

The outdoors surrounding their home has become a sanctuary for Tanner, 12, diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia two years after his sister was sickened.

Chemotherapy has kept him out of school most of this year so home is where he spends much of his time. It's where he can catch catfish, watch deer romp across the fields and still be a kid.

"Everything else has been taken away," his father said. "We can't take their support, their comfort and their home away from them."

Radiation study finds no links to cancer incidences in Sandusky County

Toledo Examiner (OH) - Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Author: Lisa Hossler

The Bureau of Radiation Protection under the Ohio Department of Health recently finished an investigation into possible radiation and radioactive material in the Sandusky County area. The study looked at historical data of radioactive material in the area and possible radiation leaks from Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station, radiation in area homes, schools and the air and water in nearby streams. The study failed to find any levels of radioactivity that would cause the high incidence of childhood **cancer**. After viewing 24 current sites and companies that have held radioactive material licenses within 25 miles of **Clyde**, no record was found that would suggest radioactive material was lost or discarded.

Houses associated with the **cancer cluster** were tested by the bureau. Results from meters placed in homes did not find any radiation level that would require action. Air was tested for close to two years on the roof of the **Clyde** Wastewater Treatment Plant. No levels of particulate radioactive material above background limits were detected.

While there were three sources of radiation in the 20 schools tested, the recorded levels were not high enough to cause a health hazard. These sources included three World War II-era compasses with glow-in-the-dark radium paint in a science classroom, a marble base to a statue outside a school entrance, and some glazed walls, tiles and bricks containing naturally occurring radioactive materials.

A review of the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station revealed no indication of a release of radioactive material. Nine sediment samples were collected from Sandusky Bay tributaries by the Ohio EPA. The samples were tested for alpha and beta radioactivity. No samples contained radioactive materials.

The 46 page report was released to 35 area family members. The next step is to compile surveys by families in the area. The state will determine if there are any relevant connections between **cancer** cases and make appropriate recommendations.

The Ohio Department of Health recognized several years ago that there are unusually high incidences of childhood **cancer** in Eastern Sandusky County. They are no closer to unraveling the mystery behind the **cancer cluster**.

New study can't solve Sandusky Co. cancers ; Cause of child cases eludes state team

Blade, The (Toledo, OH) - Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Author: TOM HENRY BLADE STAFF WRITER

FREMONT - A yearlong study shows no connection between common radiation sources and eastern Sandusky County's mysterious childhood **cancer cluster**.

The Ohio Department of Health said last night it found nothing out of kilter after an intensive study of homes, schools, and the environment at large in the Fremont- **Clyde** -Green Springs-Bellevue area - just background levels of radiation.

The agency also ruled out FirstEnergy Corp.'s Davis-Besse nuclear plant as a possible source, saying it found no evidence of radioactive material leaving the Ottawa County site.

No lingering problems were detected from NASA's former Plum Brook nuclear reactor near Sandusky, which had a leak of radioactive particles into the creek in 1968, or with northern Ohio facilities associated with World War II-era activities during the Manhattan Project, the code name for the nation's atomic bomb research.

A 46-page report documenting the findings was sent last week to about 35 area families whose children were diagnosed with **cancer** in recent years. All were invited to a meeting at the Sandusky County Health Department last night to speak one on one with the report's author, Stephen Helmer, a program administrator in the state health department's bureau of radiation protection. Only one parent, Wendy Brown of **Clyde** , mother of the late 11-year-old

Alexa Brown and wife of Sandusky County Administrator Warren Brown, showed up.

She told reporters after the meeting the lack of attendance may be a sign of growing frustration with the state's lengthy investigation as families continue to yearn for answers after four-plus years of waiting. "I think they just want us to stop," Ms. Brown said. "We're not going to stop."

Officials identified a study group of 33 families for radiation surveys. They asked to take a month of air samples from their homes with dosimeters, which are used to detect the presence of radiation at nuclear plants and industrial sites.

Eleven participated.

The state health department says an average nonsmoker takes in 620 millirems of radiation in a typical year; smokers usually take in 900 millirems a year. The bulk of exposure usually comes from X-rays and nuclear medicine sources and from naturally occurring radon gas that seeps into basements.

The safety threshold is 1,000 per year for the general public and 5,000 per year for nuclear workers, Mr. Helmer said.

"We can't find anything," he said. "Everything here seems to be pretty much at natural background levels."

Robert Indian, who is Ohio's chief **cancer** epidemiologist in his role as chief of the state health department's comprehensive **cancer** -control program, said results of the radiation investigation bring officials no closer to unraveling the mystery behind the **cancer cluster** . He remains convinced, though, that there is an environmental trigger causing the unusually high **cancer** rate.

Childhood **cancers** are rare because **cancers** typically take years to develop.

Last December, the state health department expanded its probe beyond 20 families in the original **Clyde** -Green Springs area to include about 35 across eastern Sandusky County after research showed the **cancer cluster** was larger.

A report focused on the expanded study area is to be released in October, Mr. Indian said.

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